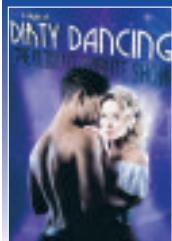


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Metal's festival boost

A BIENNIAL arts festival celebrating the Thames Estuary has received a major funding boost.

Southend-based Metal is one of just six arts organisations across the country to receive an investment.

The £277,500 of public funding comes from the National Lottery through Arts Council England, and will create Estuary.

Metal said the festival would be presented in historic venues along river shorelines and would highlight the creativity and cultural importance of the region.

In 2016 the programme of contemporary art, literature, film and music will see 150 local, national and international artists work with estuarine communities.

Hedley Swain, director South East, Arts Council England, said: "Metal has consistently delivered innovative, engaging and exciting arts projects and Estuary is no exception."

"Festivals have always been a real-

ly important opportunity for audiences to discover and develop their experience of arts and culture and I look forward to seeing Estuary do the same for this region."

Colette Bailey, artistic director and CEO of Metal, said: "A key focus of Metal is the celebration of place and communities through the lens of contemporary art. Estuary will be our largest project of this nature to date.

"The ambition for excellence award will be instrumental in enabling us to work with communities, agencies and artists from around the world to commission a world-class programme of new and existing works of art.

"The Thames Estuary has for centuries been a source of inspiration, fascination and mystery for artists, musicians, film-makers and writers. I am very excited that Metal will be building on this tradition as we create Estuary."

Southend Council's executive



DELIGHTED: Metal's Colette Bailey

councillor for enterprise, tourism and economic development, Mary Betson, said winning the funding was a huge boost.

She added: "We are delighted

that Metal, an internationally renowned arts organisation, has been awarded such a significant sum to help stage a truly groundbreaking series of festivals."

Council tax up

SAVAGE central Government cuts have forced Southend Council to announce a council tax increase of 3.9 per cent.

Unhappy council leaders said the cuts were worse than anticipated. This year the main grant is down by £8.43m, almost 30 per cent. This follows a cut last year of almost 30 per cent – £11.1m.

The council's cabinet will consider the draft proposals at its meeting next week (Tuesday, January 19.)

Go to our website: www.yellowad.co.uk/southend for more.

Influx of homeless making rents unaffordable

TENANTS BITTER

EXCLUSIVE

By Suzi Muston

southend@yellowad.co.uk

HOME rentals are becoming unaffordable in Southend as London councils move the homeless into the borough.

● Turn to page 13

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Emergency care only

First of three planned NHS strikes

By Suzi Muston

southend@yellowad.co.uk

SOUTHEND Hospital admitted there would be "disruption to services" as junior doctors went on strike.

Hospital bosses said routine inpatient elective procedures, such as planned operations and some outpatient clinics, were due to be affected.

However, the trust was keen to point out that emergency operations and cancer operations were still going ahead.

The British Medical Association (BMA) announced the results of a ballot in response to the proposed new contracts for doctors-in-training, on Friday.

Junior doctor members of the BMA at Southend Hospital voted to take action for 24 hours, between 8am on Tuesday and the same time on Wednesday.

There is due to be a longer, 48-hour walk-out from 8am Tuesday January 26 until 8am Thursday January 28, during which times there will be emergency care only.

A third strike, and a full walk-out, is due to last from 8am Wednesday February 10 until 5pm the same day.

The hospital trust says it has detailed plans in place to help minimise disruption to services.

Neil Rothnie, a medical director at Southend Hospital, said patients would be contacted if there were any changes to their appointments.

He added: "Recognising the contribution junior doctors make here at Southend, we fully anticipate some services will be affected by the proposed industrial action, but have detailed plans in order to manage any impact the proposed action will have on our services."

"We are currently reviewing our

outpatient services and hope to run as many as possible.

"However, there is likely to be some impact to routine inpatient elective procedures, such as planned operations and some outpatient clinics."

Dr Mark Porter, BMA council chairman, said he deeply regretted the disruption industrial action may cause but felt junior doctors were left with no option.

He said: "After weeks of further negotiations, it is clear that the Government is still not taking junior doctors' concerns seriously.

"Furthermore, the Government has repeatedly dragged its feet throughout this process, initially rejecting our offer of talks and failing to make significant movement during the negotiations."

All emergency services for patients along with other urgent care such as cancer, maternity services and dialysis will continue.

Junior doctor Tom Livingstone from London finished a 100-hour week on Friday, working an extra eight hours unpaid.

He said: "I am emotionally and physically exhausted and I was dangerously tired on my 45-minute drive home from work.

"I haven't seen my children for three days.

"Politicians and quangos fail to understand what the NHS is about, I work with people who do not care about profits, or money, or the bettering of one's career to obtain irrelevant titles.

"Our one priority is the patient in front of us.

"This is what the NHS is all about: caring for patients whatever their background, whatever their illness, whatever their status in society, whatever their income."

SOUTHEND Hospital has been forced to cancel operations due to an overwhelming number of accident and emergency admissions.

Hospital bosses described the situation as 'critical' on Monday. The status was lowered to black alert by Tuesday.

The executive team and lead clinicians had decided to raise the alert status because increasing numbers of acutely ill patients needed beds as the hospital was at capacity.

Staff have been deployed from other areas to assist where extra beds have been provided.

Hospital's black alert

Sue Hardy, chief executive, said: "The emergency department is very busy and we have to warn patients that those attending with 'non-urgent' conditions will wait much longer than usual as patients are prioritised.

"Our staff are working extremely hard to cope with the current pressures while maintaining high standards of care, and I'd like to thank them for their commitment during this difficult period.

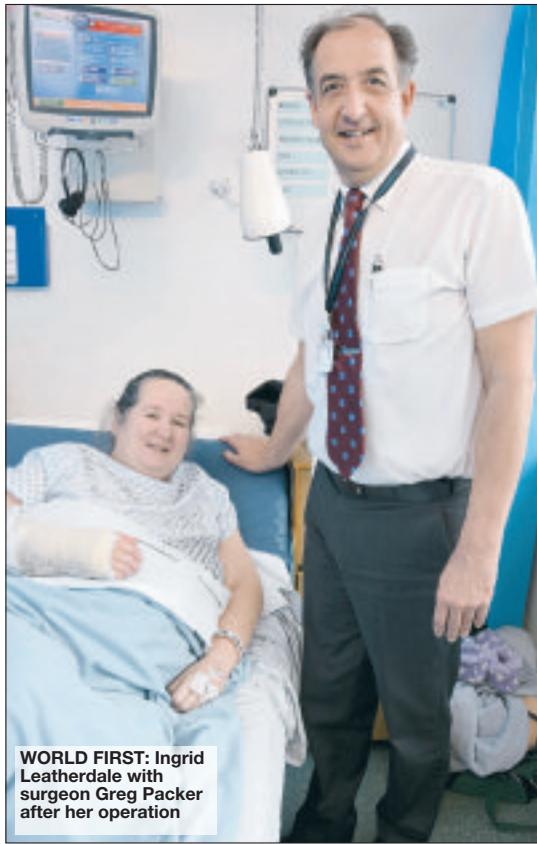
"However we have had to escalate our status further to

ensure the safety of our patients as we continue to work with our partners in the community to increase capacity."

- People experiencing choking, chest pain, blacking out, blood loss and fractures are all considered emergencies, and those with symptoms like this should not hesitate to visit their local A&E department. Otherwise, call NHS 111 for health advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or to speak with your GP or pharmacist.



CANCELLED OPERATIONS:
Southend Hospital boss
Sue Hardy



WORLD FIRST: Ingrid Leatherdale with surgeon Greg Packer after her operation

A helping hand

A MATHS teacher has become the world's first person to have a pioneering wrist operation at Southend University Hospital.

Back in 2010 Ingrid Leatherdale, 50, broke her right wrist and has since had no movement in it at all.

Ingrid, from Braintree, who is also a musician and a keen motorcyclist, was severely limited in her everyday life.

Medics said the injury would normally have meant an operation to fuse the bone, meaning she would never have any movement in it ever again.

But the operation at Southend Hospital, which took place just before Christmas, means Ingrid will benefit from full movement in her wrist in the future.

The injury left Ingrid learning to write and mark with her left hand.

Ingrid said: "I've been able to move my fingers fine but couldn't move my wrist at all.

"I'm a keen motorcyclist but it's meant I've not been

able to open the throttle, so I can't ride.

"I'm also a musician so I can't play the French horn or trombone at the moment.

"It's been life-affecting in lots of everyday ways such as really having to think and compensate before getting dressed, opening something simple like a door or not being able to do things like ironing, although I'm not looking forward to going back to that! You have to just adjust."

The operation was carried out by internationally renowned orthopaedic surgeon Greg Packer, clinical director for musculo-skeletal services at the hospital.

He said: "We have an amazing amount of wrist movement as humans.

"The operation was a partial wrist replacement, and this is the only specifically designed partial replacement in the world."

Hospital chief executive Sue Hardy said: "It's great to see Southend continues to be at the forefront of such exciting medical advances."

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COMPETITION

Have the time of your life with Dirty Dancing

No film has captured the hearts of a generation like Dirty Dancing so why not revisit the moments you loved with the help of an all-new tribute show?

A Night of Dirty Dancing is now on a nationwide tour and we have FIVE pairs of tickets to see the show at Indigo at The O2 on Friday, April 29.

The production – recast and re-scripted for 2016 – gives you the chance to relive the passion, indulge in the romance and celebrate the greatest movie soundtrack of all time.

Revel in the moments you loved, the memories you made and classic songs including She's Like the Wind, Wipeout, Do You Love Me, Be My Baby, Hungry Eyes and the Oscar-winning (I've Had) The Time of My Life.

Immerse yourself in a timeless, theatrical treat and take a trip back to the summer of '63, as you relive Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey's sizzling performance in the ultimate coming of age romance.

For further information and tickets for the show – which is not affiliated with Dirty Dancing: The Classic Story on Stage and currently on tour in the UK and worldwide – call the Indigo at The O2 on 08448 244824 or visit www.easytheatres.com, or www.indigoattheo2.co.uk.

You can also find out more via Facebook.com/ANightOfDirtyDancing and twitter.com/GoDirtyDancing.

For your chance to win one of five



CLASSIC: A Night of Dirty Dancing is at Indigo at The O2

pairs of tickets to see the show, which starts at 8pm, answer the following question.

Q: In which year is the film Dirty Dancing set?

A: 1953

B: 1963

C: 1973

To enter the competition telephone your answer – A, B or C – to (0901 307 1687) along with your name, address, telephone number and email.

Alternatively text YADANCE (space) followed by A, B or C, and your name, full address and email to 63333.

Calls cost 50p per call plus your phone company's access charge. Calls from mobiles will cost considerably more.

Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rates. If you do not wish to receive details on any other products or services, text EXIT at the end of your message.

Lines close on Thursday, January 21. Entries received after the closing date will not be counted but may still be charged. Service Provider: JMedia UK Limited, RH16 3EG. Tel: 020 7720 7130.

T&Cs: Prize tickets will go to the first entries drawn after the closing date. There is no cash alternative. The editor's decision is final.

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Whale tragedy

A SOUTHEND dad spoke of his sadness at touching a giant minke whale near Shoebury East Beach.

George Holland read about the plight of the dead whale, believed to have been killed by a ship, on

TRAGIC: Minke whale washed up on Shoebury East Beach



Facebook and was determined to see the creature first hand.

He said: "I went to collect my son from St George's Roman Catholic School and decided to take him to see the whale."

"It was a once in a lifetime opportunity, although it was very sad."

The 35ft minke whale was washed up on Shoebury East beach on Monday night. They normally swim around Iceland and Canada.

Rob Deaville, project manager for UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP), said: "It was a female minke whale. An examination indicated it was in good nutritional condition, but had a deep wound on the left side of the tail, possibly as a result of ship strike."

Whale conservation group ORCA said ships were the biggest threat to the minke population. A spokesman said: "As well as whaling, threats include pollution, reduction of prey by over-fishing, and bycatch. There have also been numerous records of ship collisions causing fatalities of minke whales in UK waters."

Grayson Perry heads book fest bill

GRAYSON Perry was officially unveiled as one of the many celebrity authors who have signed up to appear at the Essex Book Festival.

The programme for the month-long celebration of writing was revealed last week with events at Essex venues throughout March.

Perry, the Turner Prize-winning artist, was born in Chelmsford in 1960. He completed a foundation art course at Braintree College in 1978.

He is joined by big names including historian David Starkey, actor Simon

Callow, politician Vince Cable, Louis de Bernières, author of Captain Corelli's Mandolin, broadcaster Peter Hennessy, and former Blue Peter TV presenter turned-author Janet Ellis.

It is the 17th annual celebration of books and culture in Essex. Festival director Ros Green said: "We are hugely excited to be welcoming so many excellent authors and artists to Essex."

View the festival programme online at www.essexbookfestival.org.uk. Tickets are now on sale.



BIG DRAW: Grayson Perry

► speedread

- POLICE are appealing for information on how a man came to be injured and unconscious in Westcliff on New Year's Day.

The 36-year-old left a New Year's Eve party in Leigh around 1.30am. He was later found unconscious in Westminster Drive, Westcliff.

He was taken to Southend Hospital and treated for facial and head injuries.

A police spokesman said: "We are appealing to trace a man and woman who assisted the man until ambulance crews arrived." Anyone with information is asked to contact DC Andy Copley at Southend CID on 101.

- A NEW 14-week French improvers course starts Monday January 25, from 9.30-11.30am, at Southend Adult Community College's Belfairs Centre.

Course leaders promise the learning will be fun, interesting and engaging.

It is aimed at those who already speak basic French. Call 01702 445700 and quote course code B113Y15.

- TWO new 10-week pottery courses start at Southend Adult Community College this February. It teaches techniques such as coiling, glazing and slab building, plus throwing on the potter's wheel.

To enrol call 01702 445 700 and quote W316Y15 (pottery intro) or A219Y15 (sculpture).

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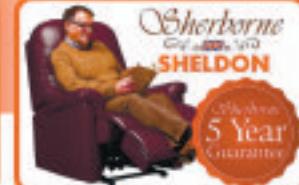
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OVERBOARD: Jon Oxenham on the RNLI stand with some of the latest recovery equipment



GEAR: Martin Barling, director of ADEC Marine from Barking, with a liferaft, part of a range of safety equipment the company offers

All hands on deck

Photos by Mark Cleveland

THE NAUTICAL industry from across Essex and east London showed off its wares at the launch of London Boat Show on Friday.

The region's marine heritage is still thriving, with numerous companies from Maldon to Barking among the exhibitors at the 62nd annual event at ExCeL London.

Murray Ellis, managing director of British Marine Boat Shows, said: "Visitors will be able to re-live the great moments of our time whilst discovering the technologies of the future which will revolutionise the way we get out on the water."

Tickets are available online and on the door, starting from £10, with two children aged 15 or under going free with each adult.

The show is open until Sunday, January 17. To purchase tickets and for further information, visit: www.londonboatshow.com.



HOPEFUL: John Cunningham-Reid is in with a chance to win a 1960s Canvey Island-built yacht

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TECH: Service Engineer Matthew Langham from Mantsbrite, marine electronics company in Maldon, with handsfree headset for use in the offshore industry



OVERSEAS: Charlotte Dorris from the USA with some of the specialist sailing clothing from Laindon company Musto



at boat show



VESSEL:
Boats.co.uk sales manager Dan Chaffe and Lester Magness onboard one of the range of Arvor boats from Essex Marina Wallasea



DISPLAY: Keith Anderson on the TCS Chandlery Grays Essex stand with some of the items used onboard



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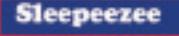
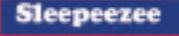
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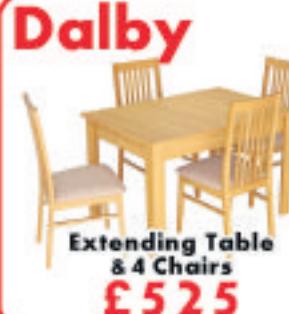
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College graduate reveals his Bond film role

THE NAME'S Thomas. Matt Thomas.

A former South Essex College higher education student has spoken about his work on the current James Bond blockbuster, Spectre.

Matt Thomas was part of the visual effects team who put together the opening title sequence set to the film's soundtrack by Sam Smith.

Matt graduated from the college's University Centre Southend in 2015 with a first class BA (Hons) degree in television production and screen media.

He secured work placements throughout his last year at university, working as a film runner at weekends. When he graduated he took on a full-time role as a 2D assistant.

Matt, 22, from Chelmsford, said: "It was odd and exciting to work on the new James Bond instalment."

"From hearing the Sam Smith song well before everyone else did to seeing my work on the big screen was very surreal."

Ollie Turner, higher education course leader, added: "We're very proud of Matt. "Our students go on to do amazing things."

Matt's latest work includes Sky's Christmas commercial campaign, EA Games Need for Speed 2015 advert and Sainsbury's Mog's Christmas calamity series.

For information about the course Matt studied visit www.southessex.ac.uk/course/film-and-television-production-ba-hons.



00-HEAVEN: Matt Thomas

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A grand day out at Tudor palace

BUILT around 1520, Layer Marney Tower, six miles south of Colchester, is the tallest Tudor gatehouse in England.

The building is principally the creation of Henry 1st Lord Marney, a close friend of King Henry VIII (who came to stay in 1522).

Henry Marney as Lord Privy Seal, Captain of the Bodyguard and many other influential positions clearly intended to display his status through his new building.

Many other courtiers wished to do the same, and just as they rivalled each other for influence and power at court, so they tried to outdo each other in the splendour of their buildings.

The Marneys enthusiastically entered this game of one-upmanship, building tall, with lavish use of terracotta and stucco, together with decorative detailing derived from Italy.

After his death in 1523, his son John continued the building work but died two years later, leaving no male heirs to continue the family line or the construction.

What was completed was the main range measuring some 300ft long, the principal gatehouse that is about 80ft tall (well worth the climb for the

SPLENDOUR: Layer Marney Tower is the tallest Tudor gatehouse in the country



spectacular view of the Essex countryside it offers), a fine array of outbuildings and a new church.

After the death of John, the house passed to Sir Brian Tuke, Treasurer to the Royal Household and Governor of the King's Posts.

His widowed daughter-in-law entertained Queen Elizabeth I for two days in 1579, the Queen most probably staying in what is now the billiard room on the first floor of the gatehouse.

The house has passed through many different fami-

lies over the last five centuries, some only staying for a few years and others for several generations.

It came to the Charrington family in the mid-20th century and has been occupied by them ever since.

Today it is a family residence, conference centre, popular wedding venue and visitor attraction.

For more information about all the places mentioned in History on Your Doorstep and other places of historical interest in Essex, go to www.visit-essex.com.

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Tablet manners



GETTING TECHY: Lisa Pearce and Natalie Skingsley at Southend Adult Community College

A NEW course offers to help technophobes get the best from their iPads.

The course has been created for anyone who may have been lucky enough to get an iPad for Christmas.

Patricia North, head of learning, told the Y4 that although students would learn a lot, it would also be a fun-packed course.

She added: "It covers everything you'll need to know about maintaining your device and how to download, purchase and remove apps.

"Week three focusses on how to get the best out of the iPad camera and how to create slideshows, a brilliant way of creating, sharing and saving your memories."

Natalie Skingsley, college learner and apprentice of the year 2015, said: "The college offers a range of brilliant courses, not just in ICT.

"I've been a learner here for almost a year and cannot fault the support and encouragement I've been given. The college really does want everyone who comes here to have a great time and enjoy the course they are on, I recommend it to anyone."

Lisa Pearce, marketing manager, said the college was offering an enormous range of courses. She said: "If you're thinking about learning a new skill, gaining a qualification for work, taking on an apprentice or beginning a personal interest or hobby course, we have a wide range of courses to choose from.

"We are also one of the few colleges nationally that still offers concessions for learners aged over 62 or receiving certain benefits."

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Impact of London's homeless

From front page

David Norman, executive councillor for housing, said housing authorities across Essex were seeing the impact of people being moved out of London by councils who are unable to afford to find similar accommodation in the capital.

Cllr Norman said the cost of renting in Southend privately had increased by ten per cent last year, the third highest increase nationally.

He told the YA: "It is becoming very difficult to find affordable private rented accommodation in the borough and with local housing allowance levels being frozen by the Government for the next four years, this will only exacerbate the shortfall."

"There are also pressures from commuters who are choosing to live further out of the city as the private rented sector in

Southend is a lot cheaper than in London.

"Unfortunately we have no control over other authorities' policy in this area, and whilst they are meant to inform us of any intention to house residents in our area through a statutory temporary accommodation placement, they do not need our permission to do so."

Out-of-borough homeless placements have increased since the introduction of welfare reforms such as cuts to housing benefit.

Research shows Barking and Dagenham sent 217 homeless people to Southend, Basildon and Rochford last year.

Newham Council sent 190 homeless people to Southend, Thurrock, Castle Point and Basildon.

Redbridge Council sent five people to Southend and 73 people to Thurrock.

Barking and Dagenham Council told the YA it had been asked by central London authorities to find homes for 3,500 people living in the pricey parts of the capital.

A spokesman for Barking and Dagenham Council said: "The problem is partly due to changes in welfare benefits where landlords are opting for non-social housing tenants as they can yield high returns from private sector clients."

Many local authorities from the centre of London are placing families outwards which is having a knock-on effect where homeless families are being placed.

The problem is keeping homeless families closer to their receiving authority and tackling a shortage of affordable housing in the context of welfare reform."

A Newham Council spokesman insisted it was sending "only a small percentage of the borough's homeless to areas outside London."

A spokesman said: "Accommodation is limited so we have to look at where properties are available. We have worked hard to create local options so that we can house as many people as possible in good quality, affordable accommodation. We are doing everything we can to ensure we have good quality, affordable housing in the borough which is fairly distributed, but we have had to make some tough decisions as there is simply not enough housing of a decent standard to accommodate the high number of homeless families who approach us for help."

Tower Hamlets has signed deals with landlords in Southend, Thurrock and Basildon, to take homeless people from the capital.

London mayoral hopeful Sadiq Khan said he was worried the changes would leave London a "segregated city".

He said: "This data shows that the government's policies on welfare and housing have caused social cleansing in London on a vast scale."

"Families have been driven out of large parts of the city, this is not the kind of London I grew up in or want my daughters to live in."

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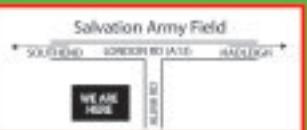
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- Moves from one bed to another (11)
- It was in form when young (7)
- Gloomy number get behind (5)
- Recognised claim to name or rank (5)
- Carter trip East causes row (7)
- Compositions make easy points (6)
- Guest who finishes the course? (6)
- Put into liquidation? (7)
- Step - or part of one (5)
- Seems to make appearance (5)
- Hide the real changes (7)
- Happy manufacturers enjoying themselves? (11)

DOWN

- Contrive to hold a bolt (5)
- A place of growing importance to gardeners (7)
- Crisp material (6)
- Tree providing deal, right? (5)
- Possibly pray when under the treatment (7)
- Are they given by singers accused of being off-key? (4,7)
- Business, they think should not be a matter of duty (4,7)
- Nobody in particular (7)
- Two small birds make one (7)
- Blamed for an uproar (6)
- One who gets up part of the stairs (5)
- Hesitation about the substance used in the theatre (5)

QUICK CLUES
ACROSS

- Provisional (11)
- Tranquill (7)
- Premier (5)
- Garret (5)
- Animate (7)
- Mirth (6)
- Unstop (6)
- Mobile (7)
- Head-dress (5)
- Clamorous (5)
- Embellish (7)
- Stock-owner (11)

DOWN

- Attack (5)
- Shortage (7)
- Helmet (6)
- Refuse (5)
- Advent (7)
- Disposition (11)
- Shorthand (11)
- Rail (7)
- Unaffected (7)
- Duration (6)
- Purchaser (5)
- Similar (5)

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READERS' LETTERS

What's the answer?

IT is good news when an argument ends and I really thought it had over the HIV motion and "Act" to halve the number of undiagnosed HIV positive people across the town.

Sadly, it was discovered by Cllr Tony Cox that Southend Council's public health department had sponsored a local football match for £3,000 without the knowledge of senior officers or Cllr James Moyies.

The council should have an apology from him. He made an incredible fuss about non-existent costs of anti-HIV promotion, but had allowed yet more money for anti-smoking work.

Either he knew of this expenditure or he didn't but whichever is the case, this discovery brings into question his integrity, what is the answer?

**Cllr Mark Flewitt
Leigh-on-Sea**

Green belt options

SO the Basildon Local Plan is now going out to consultation.

Whether we like it or not, Basildon has to have a local plan for many reasons, not least that if it does not have one then this could lead to developers attempting to develop wherever they wish in the borough.

I do not agree with many of the preferred options being presented, not least the development of the West Basildon Urban Extension Policy H10 –

which is effectively Dunton; nor do I agree with any of the alternative options presented other than option 1 of no allocation in this location.

Option 2, is of higher density on the site, Option 3 Dunton Garden Suburb, nor Option 4, more allocation of additional land for delivery during the plan period.

The development of Dunton, will not only effectively lead to the destruction of Dunton as it is, but will lead to the progression of urban sprawl westwards up to the Brentwood borough border towards West Horndon.

There are so many reasons why Basildon Council's proposals for Policy H10 in my opinion are misguided and fraught with potential ramifications.

We know that Brentwood Council wishes to continue pressing for Dunton Garden Suburb as a development to be cross-border between Brentwood and Basildon.

We have had the public consultation document which was taken in January/March last year in Basildon and Brentwood produced, which showed that 84 percent of people were opposed to the proposition of Dunton Garden Suburb and only 6 percent in favour, with half of those giving

ing only conditional support.

Yet, even in the light of such strong objections Basildon Council still includes Dunton Garden Suburb (Option 3) as an option, flying completely in the face of local opinion.

If the consultation meant anything, Basildon Council should not have included it as an option. What is the point of consultations when you take no notice of them?

Basildon Council has not only given comfort to Brentwood Council for the potential dumping of their housing problems on Basildon's back door by including Option 3, but by including the development of H10 west of the Lower Dunton Road as a provision for 1,350 homes, it has, much to the contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework, added to the spread of urban sprawl westwards with the potential of adding even more if some shabby deal is worked out in the future to develop Dunton Garden Suburb.

The only way to mitigate against the urban sprawl westwards is not to develop on green belt land to the west of Basildon, especially west of the Lower Dunton Road, which should be sacrosanct green belt.

**Danny Lovey
Langdon Hills**

■ We welcome letters and e-mails on all subjects. Please keep them to fewer than 250 words and include your full name, address and daytime telephone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be accepted.

Contributions may be edited for reasons of space. The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily those of this newspaper. Write to: Readers' Letters, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH or e-mail us at: letters@yellowad.co.uk



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NEWS

Recycle festive cards and help plant a tree



APPEAL: Julia Bradbury is backing the campaign

PEOPLE are being encouraged to take part in a recycling scheme that has seen more than 32,000 trees planted across the country.

The Woodland Trust is planting a tree for every 1,000 Christmas cards it receives.

James Duddridge, MP for Rochford and Southend East, is urging residents to take part in the scheme by dropping off their cards at any Marks and Spencer store.

Mr Duddridge said: "I have recycled my Christmas cards for a number of years now and I encourage all my constituents to do the same."

"Christmas cards can be recycled

through your household recycling or you can take the cards into a Marks and Spencer store and put them in the drop box. The Woodland Trust then collects the boxes and recycles the cards. It is that simple."

Former presenter of the BBC's Countryfile, Julia Bradbury, is heading up this year's recycling scheme.

She said: "By dropping your cards into the collection boxes, customers can help the Woodland Trust turn unwanted waste into much needed trees and preserve the UK's wildlife habitats."

Bins will be in M&S stores until January 31.

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Joyce Memorial Fund for 'charity champion'



TRIBUTE: Izzy Winfield
Photo Mark Cleveland

TRADERS plan to keep alive the name Joyce Long with an annual memorial event

Her death in December plunged the village into mourning.

The 86-year-old raised more than £1.5million for local charities.

She had been raising money for Southend Hospital for 30 years, and was awarded an MBE in 2006 for her efforts.

"We are determined Joyce will not be forgotten," said Izzy Winfield, who manages Grouts bakery, in the village. "She did so much for other people while she was alive."

"We plan to go on supporting charities in her name, with an annual fund raising event," she added.

The traders will meet soon to finalise their plans for what Izzy said will probably be the Joyce Long Memorial Fund.

"Initially we'll no doubt install a bench in her memory somewhere in the village, but we also plan an annual event in her name."

"Perhaps a picnic in the park or a summer barbecue – something like that," Izzy added.

The traders have already started with £320 in Joyce's name, from a Christmas raffle, that they are giving to Southend Hospital's cardiac

care unit, which treated Joyce for four weeks before she died.

Local businesses, who had heard Joyce was back at her Park Road home following a month-long spell in hospital, wanted to do something to show their affection – and Joyce was happy to nominate a good cause.

Sadly, she passed away on December 20, before the raffle was drawn.

"Joyce was such a selfless person – she did everything for everyone else," said Izzy. "We started this before she was ill and she wanted it to go to cardiac care because they treated her very well."

Lucy Thomas-Clayton, associate director of funding at Southend Hospital said: "This is a wonderful tribute to Joyce Long."

"She was so much part of the community and who is so deeply missed."

"She is such a loss to the village – she's been such a part of the community for the last 40 years and it's such a terrible shame she has gone. There was no-one like Joyce."

Joyce, who left a daughter, three grandchildren and six great grandchildren, was famous for the week-long garden sales she held two or three times a year.

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PrimeTime

What's on and what's coming

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

By LIZ WADE

THE highly acclaimed Russian State Opera has returned to the UK with a premiere of one of the most colourful and exotic operas – Puccini's Madam Butterfly.

The nationwide tour, which includes an appearance at Towngate Theatre, Basildon, on Thursday, February 11, features an impressive cast and a large live orchestra of more than 30 musicians.

With a beautiful set and costumes, this exquisite production intensifies the emotion of an already heart-breaking opera that tells the tale of the doomed love of an American naval lieutenant and his young Japanese bride, whose self-sacrifice and defiance of her family leads to tragedy.

Set in Japan at the turn of the century, Lt B.F. Pinkerton takes a Japanese wife while in Nagasaki, for the duration of his stay. He sets his sights on Cio Cio San who, as well as being fragile and delicate as a butterfly, must cross cultural boundaries and defy the will of her family in order to become his bride.

Pinkerton eventually leaves Japan, but in his absence Cio Cio San gives birth to their child.

As time goes by, she is still convinced that Pinkerton will return some day, but her maid, Susuki, believes foreign husbands never return.

When Pinkerton finally does return he arrives with his American wife to take away his son.

Leaving it to the American Consul to do the dirty job, Cio Cio San obeys her husband's will and hands over her son, but the grief and dis-honour is too much for her to bear and she kills herself.

The compelling yet sad and tragic tale of Madam Butterfly remained Puccini's favourite opera, while its classics such as One Fine Day, Love Duet and the Humming Chorus have remained popular with opera-goers for more than a century.

Madam Butterfly is among the most colourful and exotic of all operas, and from its theme of noble self-sacrifice spring melodies that grip your heart.

The UK tour is being co-ordinated by Amande Concerts, producers of The Russian State Ballet and Opera House, which has more than 15 years' experience specialising in promoting Russian culture and is dedicated to delivering productions of the highest quality to audiences across the UK and Europe.

● Turn to page 28



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The Lily Dior Quartet

Recognised as one of Australia's finest singers, Lily Dior has shared the stage with a remarkable list of outstanding musicians from Australia and around the world and has performed at many of Australia's best venues including The Opera House Concert Hall, The State Theatre, Sydney Town Hall and The Domain. A finalist at The National Jazz Awards she is also an experienced radio personality and host of The Freedman Fellowship Jazz Awards.



Returning to her roots in 2014, Lily has spent the last year in London building her reputation and has already established herself as an in demand performer appearing at iconic jazz venues such as Ronnie Scott's, The 606 Club and Pizza Express Soho.

Tuesday the 26th of January

Jazz at The Movies

With Joanna Eden & The Chris Ingham Quartet

JAZZ AT THE MOVIES - enchanting, entertaining, richly anecdoted, with sophistication and swing and featuring material ranging from Bond to Bacharach, Dankworth to Disney, Porter to Pinter! The band have played successful shows at jazz clubs and venues throughout the country including sold-out appearances at London's Ronnie Scott's in 2012, 2013 and 2014, St James Theatre Studio, Wavendon Stables, Bury St Edmunds Apex, Pizza Jazz Club Soho, Colchester Arts Centre and many others.

JAZZ AT THE MOVIES put a jazzy spin on the evocative songs and soundtrack themes from classic films including The Aristocats, The Servant, From Russia With Love, Agatha, Let's Make Love, The Pink Panther, The Ipcress File, When Harry Met Sally and many more. The most popular show in clubs up and down the country.



Tickets available online at www.anniesjazz.vpweb.co.uk or every Tuesday evening at Thorpe Hall Golf Club from Annie.

Please telephone 07888 751 062 / 07504 232 783 for any queries.

Ticket price is £15.00. Seating available for all.

The Ambleside Social Club, Ambleside Drive, Southend-on-Sea, SS1-2UP

PrimeTime

film review



Leonardo Di Caprio
PA Photo/Twentieth Century Fox

THE REVENANT (15, 156 mins)

F film awards were bestowed for dogged determination and perseverance in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, The Revenant would sweep next month's Oscars.

Mexican auteur Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu chose to shoot his sprawling historical epic in chronological order using natural light.

These bold aesthetic choices limited filming to just a couple of hours each day and when Mother Nature decided to withhold snow from the unforgiving Canadian wilderness, the entire production moved to Argentina at considerable expense.

Actor Tom Hardy was forced to drop out of the comic book adventure Suicide Squad to accommodate the extended filming schedule, the budget ballooned and one crew member famously described the mood on set as "a living hell".

Trials and tribulations behind the scenes haven't tarnished Inarritu's audacious vision because The Revenant is a tour-de-force of technical brio and emotionally cold storytelling.

It's not a journey into the heart of darkness for the

sentimental or faint of heart.

Explosions of violence are graphic and a horrifying bear attack early in the film unfolds in a single, unbroken take that shreds our nerves beyond repair.

Leading man Leonardo DiCaprio puts himself through the wringer for his art.

In one stomach-churning scene, the fervent vegetarian eats a wild bison's liver on camera because the role demands it.

Such unwavering dedication makes him a deserved frontrunner for the Academy Award – and has just earned him a Golden Globe.

He plays 19th century explorer Hugh Glass, who guides a team of fur trappers and hunters under the command of Captain Andrew Henry (Domhnall Gleeson).

The men come under attack from Native Americans led by tribal chief Elk Dog (Duane Howard), whose daughter Powaha (Melaw Nakrehk'o) has been kidnapped.

The interlopers flee for their lives and Glass is subsequently injured in a mauling from a grizzly bear, which is protecting its cubs.

Henry leaves behind two men, Fitzgerald (Hardy) and

Bridger (Will Poulter), to tend to Glass and his son, Hawk (Forrest Goodluck), while the rest of the trappers head for safety.

"Glass is to be cared for... as long as necessary," orders the Captain, "and a proper burial when it's time. He's earned that."

Fitzgerald decides to expedite matters by killing Hawk and dragging Glass' near lifeless body into a freshly dug grave.

The explorer regains consciousness some time later and vows to hunt down the men who killed his boy.

"I ain't afraid to die," growls Glass. "I done it already."

The Revenant is a gruelling two-and-a-half hours in the company of a film-maker who refused to compromise.

Aided by cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki (Gravity, Birdman), Inarritu conjures a nightmarish and unflinching vision of a grieving father's revenge mission.

DiCaprio is mesmerising, dragging his wounded body across frozen landscapes before locking horns with Hardy's scowling rival in an adrenaline-pumped climax that leaves us gasping for air.

Released: January 15

RATING: 8.5/10

Stage

Puccini classic is unforgettable

From page 27

Since 2001, Armande Concerts has presented operas such as Carmen, La Traviata, Madame Butterfly, La Boheme and Rigoletto, and ballets including Swan Lake, Nutcracker, Romeo and Juliet, Sleeping Beauty, Don Quixote and Giselle, as well as shows such as Big Ballet and Russian Cossacks.

As well as Puccini's Madam Butterfly, Armande Concerts will also be bringing The Russian State Opera to the UK for a tour of another masterpiece – Bizet's Carmen – this year as well as three ballets, The Nutcracker, Swan Lake and Sleeping Beauty.

While it is often thought that both opera and ballet can be hard to understand this is not so as Armande Concerts believes both forms are timeless and, like any art, can be presented in an accessible and attractive way to audiences.

With this in mind the company aims to stage productions in a classical, traditional style that is not only familiar to all, but is also as accessible as possible.

You don't need to be an opera buff to enjoy its production of Madam Butterfly as the set and costumes, programme and English subtitles make the performance both easy to follow and enjoy.

Producer Alexej Ignatow, of Armande Concerts Ltd, said: "We are constantly on the lookout for new challenges, to ensure that our opera and ballet audiences get a chance to experience a wide spectrum of various classic pieces.

"With extensive national tours that get our productions seen the length and breadth of the country, we are able to offer national audiences in various theatres an unforgettable experience at a fraction of the price, all without sacrificing quality.

"So, it is very close to my heart to continue working with theatres all over the UK to deliver top quality productions every year and make new converts wherever we go.

"No experience is needed to enjoy these classics. Our sets and costume designs, as well as the informative programmes make the productions very accessible and most of all, enjoyable.

"For opera, English subtitles make it easy to follow the story as you listen to the performance sung in its original language."

■ For further information and tickets to see Madam Butterfly at Towner Theatre, Basingstoke, on Thursday, February 11, call the box office on 01268 465465 or visit www.towngatetheatre.co.uk.

Liz at Large

YA features reporter Liz Wade goes out and about



Make tracks to model engineering show

EVERYTHING from scale steam engines and remote control trucks, to Meccano displays and model ships, are at a special event at London's Alexandra Palace this month.

The London Model Engineering Exhibition, regarded as one of the largest in the capital and across the UK, is celebrating its 20th anniversary, but that is not the only milestone it is marking.

The event, which runs from Friday to Sunday, January 15 to 17, will also commemorate the 50th anniversary of the cult television series, Star Trek, and the 80th anniversary of the Supermarine Spitfire, which was first seen by the public during an air display at RAF Hendon, in north London, in June, 1936.

The Star Trek display will include space-themed memorabilia and a selection of models including one created out of Meccano by Rev Philip Webb, chairman of the International Society of Meccanomen, who has previously created window displays at Liberty department store London.

Alongside this there will be hundreds of displays such as traction engines, collections of scale model ships, scale steam engines, rock-

ets and remote control trucks, boats and aeroplanes.

More than 50 national and regional clubs and societies will showcase more than 2,000 examples of members' work, including the Spithead Review – a collection of 600 tiny 1:1200 scale models of iconic ships spanning 3,000 years of naval warfare, each of which have taken 40 hours to construct.

Other attractions include a display of matchstick ships, moving Meccano creations such as a roller coaster that descends through gravity around three circuits, hands-on model-building activities and the chance to try an obstacle course with radio controlled trucks.

Specialist interest group, Tamya Truckin, which set a new World Record in 2015 for the longest moving convoy of remote control vehicles, will display some of its creations, with members of Kent Model Boat Display Team, Chelmsford Society of Model Engineers, British Model Flying Association (BMFA), National Traction Engine Trust, and others.



FULL STEAM AHEAD: Visitors to the London Model Engineering Exhibition

The Model Active Zone allows visitors to try activities and watch live demonstrations, including aerial displays from the BMFA.

The Imagineering Foundation, which introduces youngsters to the fascinating world of engineering and technology, will also have lots of hands-on activities along with the Brickish Association, which is

interested in all aspects of LEGO® from its history and collecting to building and displaying.

The Polly Owners Group, which builds and runs locomotives produced by Polly Model Engineering, will also be providing free passenger rides behind the 5in gauge steam locomotives within the Great Hall.

Alongside all this, more than 55 of the UK's leading specialist suppliers will be on hand to answer questions and showcase the latest ranges. For more information about the event, which runs from 10am to 5pm on Friday and Saturday, and from 10am to 4.30pm on Sunday, visit www.londonmodelengineering.co.uk.

**You can read previous days out by visiting
www.yellowad.co.uk and clicking on blogs**

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PrimeTime

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However, you can add the details of your event to our website at www.yellowad.co.uk

Saturday, January 16

- South East Essex Ramblers – 10-mile walk, London, Regents Canal. Meet 7.55am Benfleet Railway Station, SS7 1NE. Details Vivien 01268 750171.
- Basildon Saturday Club – For people with special needs, 9am to noon, games, music, arts, crafts. Ages 14 upwards. Frypa Hall, The Fryth, Basildon. 01268 415049.
- Club 50+ – Southend – 9.30am-3.30pm daily, activities, non-members welcome, £2 day pass, details 01702 346863.
- Counselling service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Yugio Club – play and trade yugioh, 120 Southend Road, St Catherine's Church Hall, Wickford, SS11 8EB, mini tournaments, 1.30-4.20pm. 07985 671289.
- Dads and Kids Club – The Megacentre, Rayleigh, 10.30am-1.30pm, free entry for ages five to 17 with their fathers and father figures. 01268 779100.
- Saturday Morning Club – St Michael's Church Hall, Leigh Road, 10am-noon, admission free, Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled. 01702 437863.
- Brush Strokes Art Group – Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh, 9.15am-12.15pm, new members welcome. 01277 627043.
- Different Strokes Exercise Class – St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend, for stroke victims, 2.30pm. 01702 612509.
- Jazz workshop – Southend Jazz Co-op, Hadleigh old Fire Station, Hadleigh, 10am-1pm, £5 per session (concessions).

Sunday, January 17

- South East Essex Ramblers – five-mile walk, Hullbridge area, 10.15am, start Ferry Road car park, Hullbridge, SS6 7UB. Details Rod 01702 354375.
- Ron Spack's Dinner Jazz – Westcliff Hotel, Westcliff, 12.30pm. 01702 345247.

- Sunday School – The Ark, Hadleigh Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, SS7 2PQ, 11am to noon, ages three to 10. Call 07585 601815 or 07967 913344.
- Quaker Meeting for silent worship and meditation – Quaker Meeting House, Dundonald Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, 10.30-11.30am, followed by conversation.
- King's Church Southend – Blenheim School, off Blenheim Chase, Leigh, every Sunday 10.30am-noon. 01702 523639.
- Greek Community of Southend & District, Church of St Barbara, St Phanourious and St Paul's, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff, 10am-noon. 01702 466435.
- Sunday Club – TGH Evangelical Church, Kiln Road, Thundersley, (ages three to 12), Bible stories, craft, singing, 10.45-11.45am, no charge, details 01702 554904.
- Mojo Friendship Club – Travellers' Joy, Downhall Road, Rayleigh, 11am, open to all, details Mo 07757 658799.

Monday, January 18

- Games Club – St Clement's Church, The Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Scrabble, chess, rummikub, backgammon and lots more. 2pm-4pm. Tel 07884 148149.
- Ron Spack's Jazzyt – Oakwood, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood. John Sharpe, saxophone, Dave Kay, guitar, 8.30pm. 01702 512819.
- U3A Riverside – 2pm, Poole's Lane Community Centre, Hullbridge, SS5 6PA. Speakers, trips and interest groups.
- Coffee Morning – Christ Church, Wickford, 9am to noon. All welcome.
- Club 50+ – 1B Queens Road, Southend, 9.30am-3.30pm, daily, £2 day pass, details 01702 346863.
- Sunshine Coffee Morning – for parents in Craylands and Felmores area. Briscoe Community Centre, 9-11am, free workshop, coffee and creche. Call Dawn 07880 035968, or turn up.
- Dance class – usually six-week course, ballroom, Latin American, Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Info: 01702 546219/542349.
- Leigh Scrabble Club – 7-10pm. All standards. Wesley Hall, Leigh Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Just turn up or call Peter on 01268 727915.
- George Hurd Centre, Basildon, for the over-50s. Craft: 10am to noon, tai chi: whilst 9.45am-12.30pm, 10am to noon, art: 12.30-2.30pm, choir: 2.30-4pm, indoor bowls: 2-4pm. £2. 01268 465654.
- Senior Citizens Club – Richmond Hall, Benfleet, 1.30-3.30pm.

- Counselling Service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Over-50s Keep fit Classes – Fyerns Community Centre, Pat 01268 770294.
- Over-50s session – Megacentre, Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, Badminton and table tennis 2-4pm, £3.50 inc refreshments and equipment. 01268 773100.
- Activity Session for adults with special needs – 10am to noon. The Megacentre, Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £1 per session, no charge for carers.
- Duplicate Bridge – Balmoral Bridge Club, Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue, Leigh (opp Thames Drive), 1.15pm-4.30pm, call Vernon 01702 343611 or Tony 01702 520993.
- Duplicate Bridge – Thorpe Bay Bridge Club, 62 Southchurch Boulevard, Southend, non-members of all standards welcome, 2-4.45pm (no partner needed), 7.30-10.30pm, call Danny 07843 771774.
- Weekly Craft Workshop – St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, Benfleet, 6-8pm, details Michelle 07730 582784.
- Basildon Players Amateur Dramatic Group – 8-10pm, James Hornby High School, Leinster Road, Laindon, details Jeff Levy 07913 426371, email join@basildonplayers.co.uk.
- Zumba – Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.15-10am. 01268 465432.
- Beginners Computer Course – Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 11am-1pm. 01268 465432.
- Short Mat Bowls Club in Hadleigh – welcomes new members. Canvey Short Mat Bowls Club, call Kevin 01268 792433.
- Short Mat Bowls – in Thundersley, beginners welcome, details 01268 779174.
- Indoor Short Mat Bowls – Prittlewell Bowls Club, Priory Park, Southend, Tel 01268 777666.
- Indoor Bowls – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, Mon 2-4pm, Tues 2.15-4.45pm, Wed 1.30-3.30pm. 01268 465654.
- Whist – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, 10am to noon, details 01268 465654.
- Senior Citizens Club – Ghyllgrove Centre, Butneys, 1.30-3.30pm. 01268 293995.
- Pensioners Walk – York Road Outdoor Market, Southend, 8am-2pm.
- Evening of clairvoyance – Room 2, Puddocks, Long Road, Canvey, 7.30pm, £3, all profits to local charities, healing available after service 9pm, 01268 691922.
- Healing in Basildon – 10.30am-4pm, qualified NFSH healers, no charge, all

donations to local hospice, call 07956 353564 for an appointment.

- Development Healing Circle – Face Salon, Burdett Avenue, Westcliff, an understanding of spiritual healing and prayer. 8-9.30pm, 07879 004744.
- Fitness Walking – from Leigh Tennis Club, Highlands Boulevard, Leigh, 7.15-8.15pm, 01702 715509.
- Scrabble Club – Wesley Church Hall, Elm Road, Leigh Broadway, (opp police station), beginners welcome, no partner needed, 7-10pm, £3, call 01268 727915.

Tuesday, January 19

- IT help sessions – Billericay Library, 10.30am – midday. Details 01277 624624.
- Magic: The Gathering Club – play and trade, beginners welcome, Laindon Community Centre, SS15 6NX, 6-10pm email: BasildonMTG@hotmail.com.
- Parent and Toddler Messy Play Group – Buttercup Club, St Michael's and All Angels Church, St Walter Raleigh Drive, Rayleigh, 9.30am and 11am, 01702 712150.
- Alzheimer's Society Men's Motivational Group – call 01702 345156 or 343121.
- Anchor Folk Club – Brooke Williams, 7-9 Northview Drive, Westcliff, 8pm, £3, 01702 715111.
- Counselling service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
- Yoga Class – Thorpedene Community Centre, Delaware Road, Shoeburyness, 7-8.30pm, £6, bring a blanket and yoga mat, ages 16-plus, 07961 314983.
- Social Dance Class – with instruction, in ballroom, Latin American and sequence, 8.30-10.30pm, Ashingdon & East Hawkwell Memorial Hall, 01702 546219/542349.
- Table Tennis – 7.30-10.30pm, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £3.60 per session.
- Weekly Craft Group – Oasis Coffee House, 189 Leigh Road, Leigh, 2.30-4pm. No charge. Emma 01702 471873.
- Willows Park Short Mat Bowls Club requires new or experienced players – James Hornby School, Laindon. First session free, call or text 07952 043456.
- Social Dance – 1.45pm, St Ced's Church, Bridgewater Drive, Westcliff Ballroom, sequence, Latin, 01702 618771.
- Evening of clairvoyance – St Cecilia's Christian Spiritualist Church, 9 Lord Roberts Ave, Leigh, 7.15pm, £2, Anne 01702 556470.
- Folk Music – The Hoy at Anchor Folk Club, Royal British Legion, 79 Northview Drive, Westcliff, Steve Tilston, 8pm. 01702 715111.

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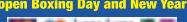
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eating out

Advertisement feature

If you want to enjoy mouth-watering food this Valentine's Day then make sure you book a table at the popular Taste of Raj.

The long-established restaurant, situated in Rochford, is taking bookings throughout the day, on Sunday, February 14, when it will serve a special menu.

Anyone interested in making a booking is urged to do so as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Throughout the year, Taste of Raj's menu is packed with outstanding Indian cuisine including a vast range of appetisers such as the mixed platter followed by a variety of traditional favourites.

There are mouthwatering chef specialities such as gosht ada katta, gosht kalia and the popular rajeswari – all of which have their own unique taste thanks to a variety of spices and ingredients.

If you want to try something different, there is a range of Persian dishes to choose from, including dalsanak and pathia, and shatkora dishes cooked Bangladeshi style.

Finish off your meal with a selection of desserts including Cadbury Flake and passion bowl.

As well as being the ideal place to celebrate Valentine's Day, Taste of Raj is the perfect setting for special events throughout the year including birthdays and family occasions.

It also offers outstanding value-for-money thanks to a range of offers including a lunchtime menu, served from Monday to Thursday, as well as on Saturday (closed Friday lunchtime), which is ideal for busi-

ness lunches and costs just £8.95 per person (£2 extra for king prawn and hash jalfrezi dishes).

The Sunday buffet, from noon to 5.30pm, is the perfect excuse to enjoy great cuisine with all the family as diners can eat as much as they like for just £7.95 per person, with children aged under 10 enjoying the buffet for only £3.95.

Customers wanting to enjoy a great meal in the comfort of their own home are spoilt for choice, as all of the restaurant's dishes can be prepared for takeaway orders. This menu has a range of meal deals including a set meal for one for just £11.95 and a set meal for two for £22.95. It offers free home delivery on orders of more than £10 and a complimentary bottle of wine on orders of more than £39.95.

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The fully licensed and air conditioned restaurant can provide an outside catering service for whatever event or occasion you are planning, and provide a menu to suit.

The restaurant, at 8 East Street, is open seven days a week, including bank holidays, from noon to 2pm, and from 5.30pm to 11.30pm, from Monday to Thursday; from 5pm to midnight on Friday; from noon to 2pm, and from 5pm to midnight on Saturday and from noon to 11.30pm on Sunday. For more information, or to make a reservation, call Taste of Raj, at 8 East Street, Rochford, on 01702 542916 or 01702 545293, or visit www.taste-of-raj.com.

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Hugh Rainey JAZZ band every Tuesday starts at 8pm

KARAOKE

Every Sunday starts 8pm

FREE ENTRY LIVE FRIDAY BANDS
FRIDAY JANUARY 29th
FROG ON A ROCKET

PIE & STEAK NIGHT

Every Wednesday until further notice from 5pm till 9pm £6.95 to include a pint or a standard glass of wine.

Choice of homemade pies or 6oz Rump steak

FISH FRIDAY

Homemade beer battered cod served with chips & peas £8.95 including a pint of beer or a standard glass of wine on Fridays throughout January

We are now taking bookings for Valentine's Night February 14th
Book now to avoid being disappointed

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Valentines Day Bookings now being taken Special Menu

5 COURSE BUFFET
Plus a rose and a balloon for every valentine!

Live Music with Graham Playbach 7pm - 11pm

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Mothers Day Bookings now being taken Special Menu

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PrimeTime**eating out**

Classics with a twist

Advertisement feature

FIND a contemporary, some would say extraordinary, twist on traditional Indian and Bangladeshi dishes at Leigh-On Spice.

The restaurant, now under new management, offers exotic tastes across a vast menu, from dishes prepared on tandoori grills and traditional tawa.

Combine the chef's secret recipe sauce and authentic dishes, with only the best of local produce and the freshest seasonal ingredients, and you can be sure of a mouth-watering meal.

The chef and front-of-house staff serve meals with pride and are happy to prepare a curry dish of your choice if you are unable to find it on the menu. House specialities include chicken or lamb jeera, chicken or lamb tawa grilled on a traditional tawa and Peshwari chicken.

Chef's recommendations include swadi chicken with roasted spices, green herbs, tamarind and green chillies, as well as king prawn kormofuli, unshelled tiger prawns from the Bay of Bengal, tossed in butter and garlic, cooked in herbs and spring onion.

Monday to Saturday banqueting nights are new for 2016, for just £10.95 per person. They let you enjoy one starter per person, as well as one side dish, a main dish and naan or rice.

Mixed grill or king prawn dishes are not included and cost an extra £2.95 per person per dish. Discount cards are not accepted on banquet nights.

A special buffet is served on Sundays, from noon to 10pm, with exclusive dishes, for just £8.50 for adults and £4.95 for children under 10. An a la carte menu is also available.

Entertainment evenings at Leigh-On Spice include a tribute evening with Sal as Elvis, on Thursday, January 28. Enjoy a meal at the restaurant plus live entertainment from Edinburgh Fringe Festival award-winner Sal, who has appeared BBC, ITV and Sky.

You can reserve your table from 6pm and enjoy a delicious meal with a choice of four starters, four main dishes, three side dishes and pilau rice or naan, before the show starts at 8pm, all for just

£19.95 per person. The fully licensed and air-conditioned restaurant is taking bookings for Valentine's Day on February 14, and Mother's Day on Sunday, March 6, and you are urged to book early to avoid disappointment.

Its takeaway service allows you to order directly from the restaurant or via the Just Eat website.

Leigh-On Spice, is at 285/291 Eastwood Road North, Leigh-on-Sea, and is open from 5.30pm to 11pm, from Monday to Saturday, and from noon to 10pm on Sunday. Visit www.leighonspice.co.uk or call 01702 521111.

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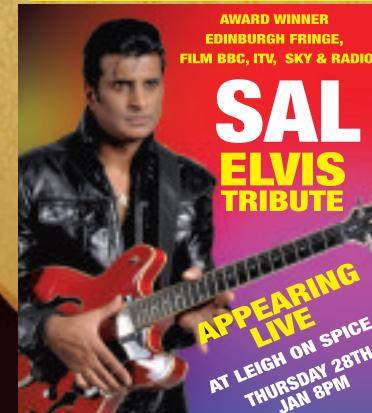
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Choose from...
4 SPECIAL STARTERS
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£19.95pp includes dinner and tribute

RESERVATIONS ONLY
£10 per head non-refundable cash deposit required

A la carte menu or any other special offers will not apply on this evening

Reserve your table from 6pm to 7.30pm

PLEASE NOTE:

Buffet is now only available on Sundays £8.50
Children (under 10) £4.95



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OPENING HOURS: MON-SAT: 5.30PM -11PM • SUN: BUFFET & A LA CARTE MENU 12.30PM -10PM
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Sunday 14th February

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Saturday 12 noon – 2pm & 5pm – 11.30pm • Sundays 12pm – 11pm

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Home of the week

Greensward Lane, Hockley

THIS spacious five bedroom country retreat is set within eight acres of parkland gardens. The imposing family home has been tastefully improved by the present owners and offers excellent accommodation and stunning outside living with a superb outbuilding, formal gardens and a two-acre well-stocked lake.

The property is situated in a semi-rural location with a short drive to Hockley railway station, shops and the favoured Greensward School catchments.

£1,295,000



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Town & Country Estate Agency are one of the county's most experienced Estate Agents, established back in 1952.

The owner of the firm, Mr Larry Keay a Fellow of the National Association of Estate Agents has over thirty five years service with the company. Larry will personally visit your property to provide a valuation and market appraisal so you can be sure you are receiving the best possible advice.

We pride ourselves on offering our clients a more personal and caring service backed up by our much admired after sales team of experienced staff who have the trust and respect of solicitors and surveyors which is vital when keeping property sale chains together. We are founder members of the highly successful TEAM group of independent computer linked Estate Agencies with over forty offices throughout Essex and East Anglia.

There are over two hundred TEAM

offices throughout the United Kingdom including our London offices where many buyers for the South East are registering.

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BENFLEET £275,000

An extended 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow in favoured South A13 location close to local shops, spacious lounge, modern L shaped kitchen, double glazed, quality bathroom, 40' rear garden, off road parking, no onward chain,



LEIGH ON SEA £339,995

Most popular Highlands Estate close to Belfair's Woods, 2/3 bedroom bungalow, spacious lounge/diner, conservatory, newly installed shower room, kitchen, 90' South backing garden, off road parking & carport, no onward chain

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Westcliff-on-Sea £122,750

Purpose built one bedroom ground floor apartment. Double glazed and gas fired central heating. Lounge 12' x 10'. Modern fitted kitchen and bathroom. Bed room 10' x 8'. Allocated parking. Close to local shops and all transport links. Ideal investment opportunity or first purchase. EPC: C



Clifftown Conservation Area £139,995

One bedroom end terrace retirement bungalow located in the heart of the Clifftown Conservation Area. Recently installed kitchen. Lounge/kitchen 11' x 9'. Bedroom 10' x 8'. Communal lounge and washing facilities in the main house. Communal car park and gardens. Resident's parking, 24 hour careline plus house manager. Close to Southend High Street, Central railway station and Clifftop gardens. No onward chain. EPC: E



Milton Conservation Area £189,995

Two-bedroom split level first floor flat located in the Milton Conservation Area. Lounge 19' reducing to 14' x 8' maximum. Bedroom one 12' x 12'. Bedroom two 12' x 8'. Family bathroom. Kitchen 8' x 7'. Walking distance of town centre and mainline railway stations. Close proximity of local amenities. No onward chain. Ideally suited to a buy to let investor or first time buyer. EPC: E



Central Southend £195,000

Modern purpose built two bedroom/bath flat in good decorative order throughout, located close to Southend town centre and within walking distance of Cliff Gardens and Southend Central railway station. Entry phone system. Lift to all floors. Lounge/kitchen 20' x 11'. Master bedroom with en-suite. Double second bedroom. Bathroom/w.c. Gated access to secure allocated parking. Good decorative order throughout. Double glazed. Gas fired central heating. No onward chain. EPC: B

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Marine Apartment - Tower Court £235,000

Two bedroom eighth floor cliff top apartment with stunning views of the Estuary and close to Southend town centre and all local amenities, and benefiting from a lift. Lounge with balcony. Stunning views over the Estuary and town centre. Communal parking and gardens. No onward chain. EPC: E



Southchurch £330,000

Completely refurbished three bedroom semi-detached house found within one of Southchurch's more popular roads. Three reception areas. Ground floor cloakroom. High quality kitchen and bathroom. South facing garden with raised deck, walking distance to all local shops and C2C railway station. No onward chain. EPC: E



Clifftown Conservation Area £395,000

Three bedroom first floor apartment located in the Clifftown Conservation Area, and offering excellent views of the Thames estuary. Security entrance. Lounge 20' x 10' with access to south facing balcony. Fitted kitchen/breakfast room 11' x 7'2" with built-in appliances. Bedroom one 10' x 12' with fitted bedroom suite. Bedroom two 12' x 10'. Bedroom three 11'6" x 8'1". Bathroom/w.c. Gas central heating and double glazing. Private off-street parking for two vehicles. Easy access of town centre and mainline railway station. EPC: B



Milton Conservation Area £589,995

Beautiful four bedroom Victorian house. Many original features. Sitting room 16' x 13'. Luxury kitchen 10' x 12'. Dining room 13' x 12'. Morning room 12' x 9'1". Master bedroom with en-suite shower room and dressing area. Study 12'3" x 9'6". Downstairs cloakroom. Gas central heating. Ample off-road parking. 120' enclosed west facing garden. EPC: F

lettings



PARK AVENUE - £750 pcm
TWO double bedroom apartment situated in a quiet & sought after area. Located just off London Road. Two double bedrooms, a bathroom with separate bath and shower, separate WC. Large lounge with access to a rear garden. Double Glazing and Central Heating. Double Glazing and Garden AVAILABLE NOW. UNFURNISHED. NO PETS. EPC: D. Admin fee £750 per adult.



SOUTHCHURCH ROAD - £550 pcm
ONE double bedroom apartment located in a quiet & sought after area. Located just off London Road. Double bedroom, a bathroom with separate bath and shower, separate WC. Large lounge with access to a rear garden. Double Glazing and Central Heating. Double Glazing and Garden AVAILABLE NOW. UNFURNISHED. NO PETS. EPC: D. Admin fee £750 per adult.



LITTLE MAKING ROAD - £975 pcm
Detached TWO double bedroom NEW BUILD property. Located in a quiet & sought after area. Located just off London Road. Double bedroom, a bathroom with separate bath and shower, separate WC. Large lounge with access to a rear garden. Double Glazing and Central Heating. Double Glazing and Garden AVAILABLE NOW. UNFURNISHED. NO PETS. EPC: D. Admin fee £750 per adult.



LEIGH PARK ROAD - £890 pcm
PANORAMIC OCTAVIAN MANSION. Newly decorated TWO double bedroom top floor apartment. Located just off London Road. Double bedroom, a bathroom with separate bath and shower, separate WC. Large lounge with access to a rear garden. Double Glazing and Central Heating. Double Glazing and Garden AVAILABLE NOW. UNFURNISHED. NO PETS. EPC: D. Admin fee £750 per adult.



RUNWELL TERRACE - £800 pcm
GORGEOUS ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT located in the heart of the Clifftown Conservation Area. Located just off London Road. Double bedroom, a bathroom with separate bath and shower, separate WC. Large lounge with access to a rear garden. Double Glazing and Central Heating. Double Glazing and Garden AVAILABLE NOW. UNFURNISHED. NO PETS. EPC: D. Admin fee £750 per adult.



WOODGRANGE DRIVE - £1060 pcm
Large modern four bedroom apartment located in the heart of the Clifftown Conservation Area. Located just off London Road. Double bedroom, a bathroom with separate bath and shower, separate WC. Large lounge with access to a rear garden. Double Glazing and Central Heating. Double Glazing and Garden AVAILABLE NOW. UNFURNISHED. NO PETS. EPC: B. Admin fee £750 per adult.



BELGRAVE MANSIONS - £525 pcm
GORGEOUS ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT located in the heart of the Clifftown Conservation Area. Located just off London Road. Double bedroom, a bathroom with separate bath and shower, separate WC. Large lounge with access to a rear garden. Double Glazing and Central Heating. Double Glazing and Garden AVAILABLE NOW. UNFURNISHED. NO PETS. EPC: D. Admin fee £750 per adult.



SILVERDALE AVENUE - £745 pcm
ONE double bedroom located in a sought after area. Located just off London Road. Double bedroom, a bathroom with separate bath and shower, separate WC. Large kitchen. Double Glazing and Central Heating. Double Glazing and Garden AVAILABLE NOW. UNFURNISHED. NO PETS. EPC: B. Admin fee £750 per adult.



CAMPFIELD ROAD - £1185 pcm
Detached THREE bedroom family house close to the Clifftown Conservation Area. Located just off London Road. Double bedroom, a bathroom with separate bath and shower, separate WC. Large kitchen. Double Glazing and Central Heating. Double Glazing and Garden AVAILABLE NOW. UNFURNISHED. NO PETS. EPC: B. Admin fee £750 per adult.



BRIGHTWELL AVENUE - £525 pcm
ONE double bedroom located in the heart of the Clifftown Conservation Area. Located just off London Road. Double bedroom, a bathroom with separate bath and shower, separate WC. Large lounge with access to a rear garden. Double Glazing and Central Heating. Double Glazing and Garden AVAILABLE NOW. UNFURNISHED. NO PETS. EPC: B. Admin fee £750 per adult.



PARK ROAD - £525 pcm
ONE double bedroom located in the heart of the Clifftown Conservation Area. Located just off London Road. Double bedroom, a bathroom with separate bath and shower, separate WC. Large lounge with access to a rear garden. Double Glazing and Central Heating. Double Glazing and Garden AVAILABLE NOW. UNFURNISHED. NO PETS. EPC: B. Admin fee £750 per adult.



ALEXANDRA ROAD - £625 pcm
ONE double bedroom located in the heart of the Clifftown Conservation Area. Located just off London Road. Double bedroom, a bathroom with separate bath and shower, separate WC. Large lounge with access to a rear garden. Double Glazing and Central Heating. Double Glazing and Garden AVAILABLE NOW. UNFURNISHED. NO PETS. EPC: B. Admin fee £750 per adult.

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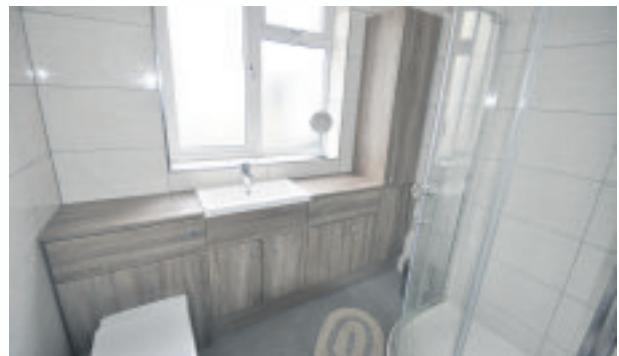
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BENFLEET £330,000 GUIDE PRICE

OPEN HOME THIS SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY 2016 FROM 2PM. PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE TO ARRANGE A VIEWING TIME. THERE WILL BE NO ONWARD CHAIN. A Detached three bedroom bungalow with a generous lounge; a well fitted kitchen; modern shower room; a good size garden; ample off street parking and a garage. The property is within walking distance of all local amenities and good links to the A13; Please call 01702 558110.





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info@sorrellproperty.co.uk**Westcliff On Sea****£310,000**

Three bedroom semi detached chalet situated within a sought after location of Westcliff close to Southend hospital and various schools. The property offers enormous potential in relation to redevelopment or extensions, subject to planning permission and has a 40" frontage which increases to the rear of the property to 52' along with substantial rear gardens.

Westcliff On Sea**£245,000**

Spacious three bedroom 9th floor Marine apartment offering superb views across Southend and the Thames Estuary. The property benefits from two balconies, and is situated along the prestigious Westcliff Parade. The apartment has a welcoming lobby area and two lifts to all floors along with on site caretaker. The property also benefits from full double glazing and is situated close to Southend town centre shopping facilities. There is no onward chain.

Southend On Sea £300,000

Spacious detached family house being situated within a popular residential location and offering a rear garden approximately 100' in length. There is an attached garage and a double drop curb with off street parking for up to 4 vehicles and there is double glazing and gas central heating. The property offers a wealth of character and there is no onward chain.

Westcliff On Sea £800 pcm

COTTONWOOD AVENUE, WESTCLIFF ON SEA. A completely refurbished ground floor apartment situated within a NEWLY refurbished block and offering QUALITY FIXTURES AND FITTINGS THROUGHOUT. A GRAND VICTORIAN TILED COMMUNAL ENTRANCE HALL with high ceilings and ornate coving gives access to the apartment which offers's a SPACIOUS open plan lounge / kitchen with a large dining area and high ceilings and an integrated gas hob with electric oven under and stainless steel extractor with space for a washing machine and aridge freezer. There is a LUXURY BATHROOM/WC with a shower over bath and glass shower screen. There is a double bedroom which is carpeted. Externally there is a GOOD SIZE PRIVATE GARDEN shared between the two properties and the garden being ASTROTURFED. Two BUILT-IN SKY TV POINTS in Lounge and Double bedroom. Brand new electrics, gas central heating and double glazing. Security entryphone system. Professional tenants only. No housing benefit. No pets. No smoking inside the property.

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RAYLEIGH £475,000

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LEIGH ON SEA £375,000

We Are Pleased To Offer For Sale This Completely Refurbished Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow On The Highly Sought After Belfairs Estate. The Property Features a Lounge, Conservatory, Two Double Bedrooms, Modern Re-Fitted Kitchen & Four Piece Bathroom. No Onward Chain. Must Be Viewed. EPC rating D.

How much is your home now worth?

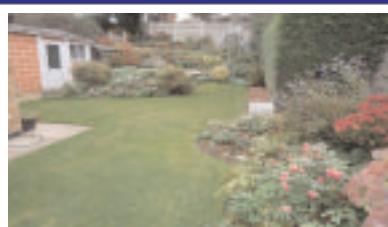
It appears that Rayleigh has become somewhat of a property hot spot, recording average house price rises of almost 14% over the last 12 months according to our latest figures. Our research shows that the average house price in Rayleigh currently stands at £298,000, above the national average of £294,000.

When buyers look to purchase a new property, location really is everything. Rayleigh provides a cost effective solution for those who don't want to live too far from London and coupled with excellent schools and a vibrant High Street, buyers are heading there in their droves. Many properties are selling for their asking price and often even more. With this in mind, if you are considering selling your property in 2016, we would invite you to take advantage of our **FREE VALUATION** service to find out how much your property is worth.



BENFLEET £469,995

An absolutely charming character THREE BEDROOM family home set within one of Benfleet's most prestigious roads just a short distance from Town & Station. The property includes a delightful 150' rear garden PLUS a FULLY SELF CONTAINED ANNEXE. Viewing of this fine home is essential. EPC rating E & D



RAYLEIGH £319,995

An exciting opportunity to purchase this THREE BEDROOM semi detached bungalow set within easy reach of Town and Station. The property features a delightful rear garden approaching 100' in length and offers potential to extend (subject to planning consent) EPC rating D.

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**Westcliff-on-sea £275,995**

An excellent opportunity to purchase this spacious two double bedroom semi-detached bungalow situated in a peaceful 'no through road' location yet within easy walking distance of local shops, Southend hospital and bus route to surrounding areas. Pretty garden with decking patio, spacious lounge, lovely bathroom, 21' x 15' open plan kitchen and dining room, off street parking, NEW ROOF. Ref etl5380

**Westcliff-on-sea £335,000**

PROBATE SALE - 2/3 Bedroom character bungalow in sought after Somerset Estate location, 60' south facing rear garden, large garage and private driveway, three bedrooms, or two bedrooms plus three reception rooms, upvc double glazed conservatory, kitchen, bathroom / w.c. KEYS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING. Ref etl5385

**Leigh-on-sea £469,995**

We have pleasure in offering for sale this large detached three double bedroom family home currently undergoing complete refurbishment. The property occupies an impressive 40' x 160' south facing plot with a 40' x 90' rear garden. En suite shower room to master bedroom, stunning 28'1 x 21'1 open plan lounge, dining room and kitchen, superb lounge with vaulted ceiling, 14' x 13' dining area, new fitted kitchen, luxury ground floor bathroom, KEYS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING THIS FABULOUS FAMILY HOME. Ref ETL5389

**Detached Four bedroom house on superb 250' plot £579,995**

Large detached family house standing on a fabulous 250' west facing plot with a wonderful 180' rear garden. The property is situated in sought after location within the King John School catchment area and close to Hadleigh Country Park. Four bedrooms, en suite shower, large lounge, dining room, 18'3 x 13' rear lounge, 18' x 16'2 luxury kitchen / breakfast room, cloaks/w.c., garage and parking for five cars. 22' x 12' garden cabin. Ref etl5391

Westcliff on sea £155,000

A well presented ground floor flat with own private rear garden situated in a popular and convenient location. The flat offers versatile accommodation currently arranged with two double bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen and bathroom /w.c.. Early is advised as a quick sale is expected. Ref etl5395

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Town & Country

1348 London Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 2UH est.1952



Two double bedroom apartment with south facing balcony and ESTUARY VIEWS £238,500

An excellent opportunity to acquire, at a most realistic price, this very large two double bedroom top quality apartment for the over 55's enjoying superb views of the Thames Estuary and situated close to local shops, the beach and mainline station. TWO VERY LARGE DOUBLE BEDROOMS 23'6 X 10'9 LOUNGE/DINER SOUTH FACING BALCONY WITH ESTUARY VIEWS FITTED KITCHEN WITH APPLIANCES . Ref etl5394



Westcliff-on-sea £357,500

Internal viewing is essential to fully appreciate this exceptional semi-detached house situated on the eagerly sought after Somerset Estate within easy access of the a27, Southend airport, shops and schools at Earls hall, St. Thomas More, Westcliff and Southend High Schools & Southend hospital. Lovely south facing rear garden, three bedrooms, luxury kitchen and bathroom, Large lounge, separate dining room. Garage .



Probate sale - Highlands, Leigh-on-sea £295,000

Four bedroom town house style family home in Westleigh Schools Catchment area and walking distance of Leigh Station. THE PROPERTY REQUIRES MODERNISATION and the realistic asking price reflects this. 60' rear garden, garage plus parking for two cars, 27'6 x 15' lounge/ diner, cloaks/w.c., gas c/h, double glazing. KEYS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING. Ref etl5393

01702 713255

www.townandcountryessex.co.uk



Parkstone Drive, Prittlewell £450,000

Set within the favoured Parkstone Drive on the Earls Hall Estate is this spacious and greatly improved four bedroom detached house which benefits from new kitchen/breakfast room, new four piece family bathroom, open plan lounge/diner, new flooring and carpets, freshly refurbished throughout, ground floor wc, conservatory, garage and off street parking. Convenient for local primary/grammar schools and Priory Park. No onward chain.

Ref: ETS5100 EPC: D



Inverness Avenue, Westcliff Offers in excess of £160,000

A recently refurbished two double bedroom first & second floor flat which benefits from a newly installed modern kitchen and bathroom, uPVC double glazing, gas central heating and own section of rear garden. Offered with no onward chain.

Ref: ETS5104 EPC Commissioned



Mariner House, Southend price from £145,000 to £160,000

Tudor Estates are delighted to offer this newly converted town centre development comprising of 14 two bedroom apartments with en suite shower rooms and 2 one bedroom apartments. Offering modern open plan lounge/kitchen with integrated appliances, new windows, and 120 year lease. Convenient for mainline station and Southend University. Ideal for first time purchase or buy to let investor.

Ref: ETS5089



Kilworth Avenue, Southend £124,500

Beautifully refurbished one bedroom ground floor flat which benefits from an open plan lounge and newly fitted kitchen, new bathroom suite, gas central heating and off street parking. Convenient for town centre, mainline station and seafront. No onward chain.

Ref: ETS5096 EPC: D

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£825,000

Hermitage Avenue, Thundersley

We are delighted to offer to the market this substantial, executive, family home set within a quiet and sought after cul-de-sac location. The property offers spacious and well-presented accommodation including a large lounge, sitting room/office, kitchen-breakfast room, dining room, utility room and cloakroom. On the first and upper first floors the property benefits from four large double bedrooms with en-suite to the master and guest bedroom. The master bedroom also comes complete with a spacious, fitted dressing room and extensive views of the south facing rear garden and woodland beyond. In addition, the property boasts a large woodland garden circa 265' with decked area ideal for entertaining, double garage and ample off street parking.



£285,000

The Birches, Benfleet

We are pleased to offer to the market this spacious and well presented 3 bedroom family home. The property benefits from a large open plan lounge-diner, fitted kitchen, modern fitted bathroom, off street parking and garage.



£150,000

Devereux Road, Southend-On-Sea

We are delighted to offer to the market this quirky, one bedroom flat situated within the ever sought after Clifftown Conservation area. The property enjoys sea views and boasts many unique features. Comprising of a large open plan Lounge-Kitchen-Diner, spacious bedroom and shower room.



£250,000 - SOLD STC

Lime Lodge, Leigh-On-Sea

We are delighted to offer to the market this spacious 2 bedroom property that has been refurbished to an incredibly high standard throughout; - **THIS PROPERTY IS NOW SOLD. SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED FOR WAITING APPLICANTS.**



£850 PCM

High Road, Benfleet - IDEAL FOR COMMUTERS!

We are delighted to offer to the market this well presented and recently refurbished 2 bedroom first floor flat. The property comes complete with modern fitted kitchen and bathroom and is just a stones throw from Benfleet mainline station.



£875 PCM

London Road, Hadleigh

We are pleased to offer to the market this spacious and well presented 2 bedroom apartment complete with off street parking and a private section of rear garden. The property has been refurbished throughout within the past 12 months and is available mid February.



212 London Road, Hadleigh, Essex SS7 2PD
(diagonally opposite Lloyds TSB & Morrisons)

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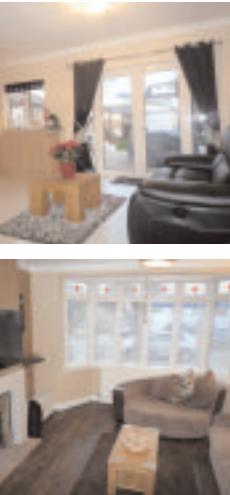
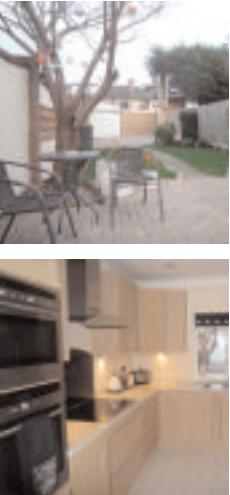
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Southend £395,000

- ** 4 bedrooms
- ** Beautifully presented throughout
- ** Master bedroom with en-suite
- ** Modern open plan living
- ** Approximate 70ft garden
- ** Close to Southend East station and Southchurch Park
- ** Detached garage at rear
- ** Must be seen

RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS



Westcliff £595 pcm

- ** 1 Bedroom
- ** Second Floor
- ** Close Westcliff Station
- ** Just Refurbished
- ** New Kitchen
- ** Available Now



Rochford £725 pcm

- ** 1 Bedroom
- ** First Floor
- ** Close to Rochford Square
- ** Available Now
- ** Good Décor
- ** Working Tenants Only



Basildon £1,100 pcm

- ** 3 Bedrooms
- ** Large Conservatory
- ** Available Now
- ** Good Sized Garden
- ** Off Street Parking
- ** Viewing Advised



Leigh £995 pcm

- ** 2 Double Bedrooms
- ** Large Lounge
- ** Off Road Parking
- ** On the Broadway
- ** Close to all Amenities
- ** Available Early February 2016



Hockley

- ** 3 Bedrooms
- ** Backs open fields
- ** Available now
- ** Next to Belchamps Activity Centre



£1,350 pcm

- ** Secluded Location
- ** Versatile Accommodation
- ** 3 Reception Rooms
- ** Working tenants only



Westcliff

- ** Views to the Estuary
- ** 2 Bedrooms
- ** Master bedroom with fitted furniture and en-suite



£1,200 pcm

- ** Lounge with balcony
- ** Allocated parking
- ** Available now for working tenants only
- ** Close to Station



ashleigh stone

HOT PROPERTY IN LEIGH, CHALKWELL & WESTCLIFF



Chalkwell £1,275,000

Ashleigh Stone are favoured with instructions for this fantastic and recently modernised four bedroom town house situated a stone's throw from the beach and enjoying the most fantastic views of the Estuary from all three floors. The Master bedroom suite occupying the whole third floor and includes a decked balcony with glass balustrade and built in hot tub all with stunning Estuary views. The property also comes with an additional balcony to lounge and its own double garage and off street parking to the front. Please call to view this beautiful property 01702 480666.

Marine Estate

£1,350

Ashleigh Stone Lettings are pleased to offer this good size two bedroom detached bungalow on the Marine Estate, with its own garage and driveway and a West Facing rear garden. The property is within the West Leigh school catchment area. Sorry working tenants only. Available now.



Leigh-On-Sea

£650

Located in the heart of Leigh close to the Broadway with all its bars, shops, cafes and train station is this one bedroom ground floor flat with its own garden which is available mid February. No Pets, working tenants only. Call 01702 480666 to view.



Westcliff-On-Sea

£1,325

Ashleigh Stone Lettings are pleased to offer this four bedroom detached chalet with off street parking. The property comprises lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom on the ground floor with two bedrooms and shower room on the first floor. Sorry working tenants only. Sharers and Pets considered. Available now.



Leigh-On-Sea £410,000

Ashleigh Stone are pleased to offer this 3/4 bedroom detached chalet on a large plot with ample parking and located with easy access to Belfairs Park and the A127. The property offers great potential for the new owners. Call now to view.

South of the London Road £200,000

Ashleigh Stone are pleased to offer this great one bedroom ground floor flat located close to the Broadway which is offered with no onward chain. The flat is a good size and ideal for those wanting to live by the bustling Broadway with all its bars, shops and cafes. Call now to view.

Leigh-On-Sea

£950

Ashleigh Stone Lettings are thrilled to offer this two double bedroom flat located South of the Broadway. The flat comes with a stunning kitchen and bathroom and is in an ideal location for the Broadway, train station and beach. Working tenants only. Available early January.



Southend-On-Sea

£850

Ashleigh Stone Lettings are pleased to offer this three bedroom home close to the town centre and train station. The property has a ground floor wc, first floor bathroom and a shower in the second bedroom. Working tenants only, available early January.



Westcliff-On-Sea

£625

Ashleigh Stone Lettings are pleased to offer this one bedroom first floor flat which is ideally located south of the railway line and close to Westcliff station and a stroll from the seafront. The flat has been freshly decorated and has a new kitchen, bathroom and heating system. Working tenants only, no smokers or pets. Available Mid February.



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Sales

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SOUTH BENFLEET £550,000

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- * Four bed detached family home
- * Enjoys uninterrupted views of country park
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- * Ground floor cloakroom & separate family bathroom
- * South facing rear garden
- * Sun balcony and en-suite off master bedroom
- * Quick sale possible
- * EPC Band E



SOUTH BENFLEET £490,000

- * Large 4 bed executive family home
- * Sought after elevated turning
- * Within King John School Catchment
- * Views of Kent & The Estuary
- * Lounge & large conservatory

- * Separate dining room
- * Luxury kitchen with integrated appliances
- * Utility room & ground floor cloakroom
- * Off road parking & garage
- * EPC Band D

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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA £229,995

- * 3 Bed Mid Terraced House
- * Located Within a Mile of C2C Southend East Station
- * Lounge With Bay Window To Front
- * Separate Dining Room

- * Ground Floor 3pce Bathroom
- * 2pce Cloakroom To First Floor
- * Approximately 50' Rear Garden (Unmeasured)
- * Ideal for first time buyer or investment purchase



SOLE
AGENTS

THUNDERSLEY £329,950

- * Much improved and extensively upgraded & extended 3 Bed character home
- * Located in popular turning within King John School catchment
- * Upgraded bathroom and cloakroom

- * Substantial lounge/diner & separate study/media room
- * Extended and re-fitted kitchen/breakfast room
- * Various out buildings
- * Maintained to high standard throughout
- * EPC Band D



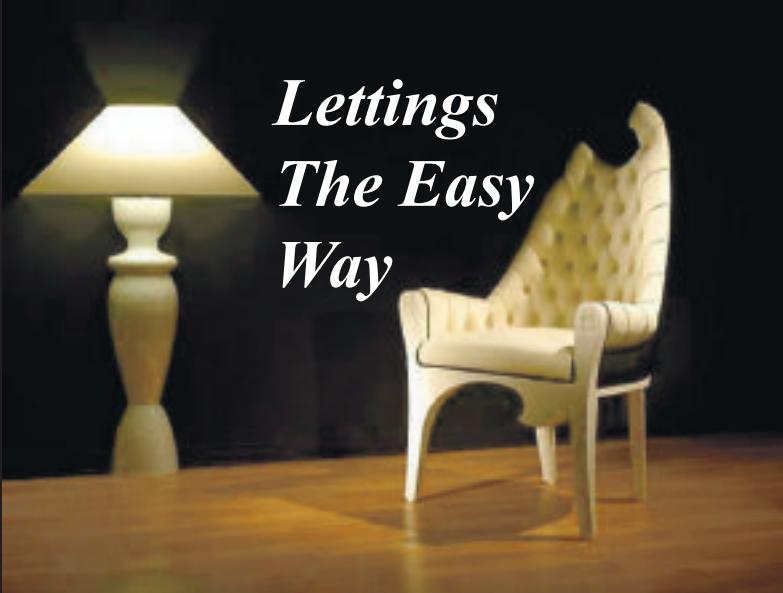
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- * Two Double Bedrooms
- * Garage
- * Gas Central Heating
- * Double Glazed
- * Avail January
- * Energy Efficiency Band E



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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA £1,250 pcm

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- * Solar Panel Heating
- * Walking Distance To Beach & Park
- * Close To Local Amenities
- * Energy Efficiency Band C



THUNDERSLEY £1,495 pcm

- * 4 bedroom Detached House
- * Large Lounge
- * Separate Dining Room
- * Fitted Kitchen with Appliances
- * Four Double Bedrooms
- * En-suite to Master Bedroom
- * Family Three Pce Bathroom
- * Gas Central Heating
- * Double Garage
- * Energy Efficiency Band E



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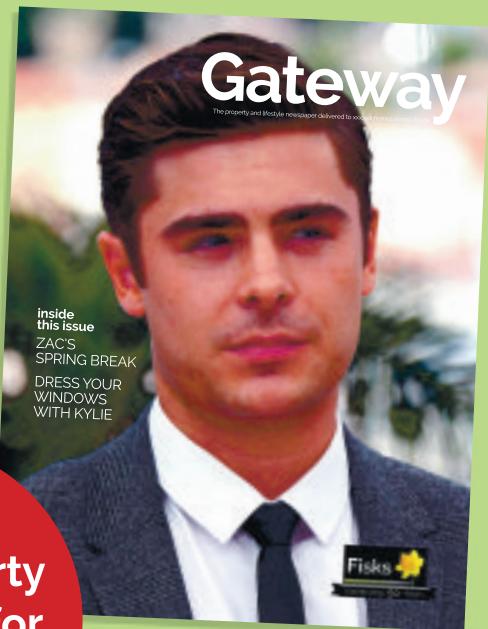
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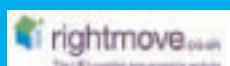


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SOMERSET ESTATE WESTCLIFF £330,000

Character Semi Detached House situated on the popular Somerset Estate, close to local Shops in Bridgwater Drive, walking distance of Tesco Store Prince Avenue. Convenient for High Schools and Southend University Hospital. Lounge. Separate Dining Room. Kitchen. Large Conservatory. 3 Bedrooms. Bathroom. Separate w.c. Medium Sized Rear Garden. Large attached Garage and additional Parking. EARLY INSPECTION RECOMMENDED. EER. E.



WESTCLIFF £325,000

Spacious Semi Detached House With Garage. 2 Reception Rooms. Kitchen. 3 Bedrooms. Bathroom. Separate w.c. Medium Sized Rear Garden with open aspect. EER. G.



WESTCLIFF £425,000

Spacious Detached Chalet Bungalow. Spacious L-Shaped Lounge/Diner. Fitted Kitchen. Utility Room. Four Bedrooms (En-Suite to 2nd Bed) 2nd Floor Bath/w.c. Bathroom/Shower w.c. Separate w.c. Outside Study/Office. Secluded Garden. Garage. Recommended. EER. D.



SOMERSET ESTATE WESTCLIFF £425,000

Delightful Mock Tudor Style, Spacious, Five Bedroom Semi Detached House. Situated on the popular Somerset Estate, within walking distance of local High Schools, Southend University Hospital, Tesco Store Prince Avenue. 3 Reception Rooms. Cloakroom. Utility Room. Large



CLOSE CHALKWELL PARK £149,995

Excellent Ground Floor Retirement Flat. Dual aspect, overlooking garden. Lounge. Bedroom. Fitted Kitchen. Wet Room/shower/w.c. Recommended. EER. D.



WESTCLIFF £199,995

Excellent Purpose Built Ground Floor Flat situated in small block in sought after area. Lounge. Galley Style Kitchen. Double Bedroom. Bathroom/w.c. Communal Gardens. Garage in Block. Recommended. EER. D.



WESTCLIFF £135,000

(to include the Freehold) First floor flat. South facing. Central Westcliff. Convenient for Westcliff station. Lounge. Kitchen/diner. Bedroom. Bathroom/w.c. Parking at rear negotiable. EER. D.



SOMERSET ESTATE WESTCLIFF £335,000

Character Semi Detached Bungalow. Lounge. Dining Room. Fitted Kitchen. Bathroom/w.c. Medium Sized Rear Garden. Garage With Own Drive and Additional Parking. EER. E.



SOMERSET ESTATE £345,000

Character Semi Detached Bungalow. 2 Bedrooms. 2 Reception Rooms. Kitchen. Shower Room/w.c.

Motoring

Honda shows its sporting pedigree

By Peter Keenan

THIS is one motor that can justly claim to be a good sport.

Super sleek with glitzy body kit and flowing lines the Honda Civic Sport looks the part – and with a dynamic 1.6-litre diesel engine calling the shots it has the power to impress without breaking the bank when it comes to running costs.

Gone are the days when diesels were noisy and smelly with all the style and charisma of a tractor.

This oil burner, linked to a smooth-shifting six-speed manual gearbox, provides rush with hush propelling the Civic Sport to 62mph from a standing start in a shade over 10 seconds on its way to a claimed top speed of 129mph.

Average fuel consumption of 70-plus miles per gallon and tax-busting emissions are achieved with the help of stop-start technology and an ECON button which adjusts throttle response, as well as the car's use of the air conditioning system to keep cash outlay to a minimum.

The lack of any discernible sound, apart from a vague rumble when pedal is pressed to metal managed to fool my dad into thinking the car we were in was a petrol model – he refused to believe it was a diesel until I showed him the fuel filler cap with the legend printed in capitals.

The exterior also failed to give him a



SLEEK: Honda Civic 1.6 i-DTEC Sport Navi

decent steer as it was too sporty for his idea of what an oil burner should be.

The Civic Sport looks glued to the road and features styling including integrated daytime running lights, a natty mesh grille, an aerodynamic front bumper, beautiful black alloys plus a colour-coded rear spoiler.

The last mentioned in that list provides my one quibble with the Civic as, despite looking great from the outside, it obstructs the driver's view by cutting the tailgate window in half.

But Honda do fit a reversing camera as standard which helps to compensate, espe-

cially when it comes to backing into tight car parking spots.

The cabin continues the ultra-modern theme of the exterior so the tech-savvy will be drooling over Honda's Connect infotainment system, designed to get the best from Android smartphones while Apple users can hook up via bluetooth.

Despite the hunkered down sports car appearance there is a practical amount of space provided with the boot able to cope with 477 litres expanding to a maximum of 1,378 litres with the rear seats lowered.

The car catered for five adults without too

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much fuss and little in the way of complaints, although the clever hidden rear door handles left some attempting to access the back seats via the front doors.

The car is fitted with the usual suspects to help prevent or mitigate accidents.

My test car featured a £600 Driver Assistance Safety Pack which includes blind spot monitoring, lane departure warning, collision warning and traffic sign recognition – all useful to have.

The driving experience is enjoyable as the suspension is firm without shaking any bones ensuring a decent ride, while the traction system helps the car's handling giving good levels of grip and little body roll when cornering.

It is the final ingredient in a tasty compact family hatchback recipe.

FAST FACTS

Price: £21,430
Mechanical: 120ps, 1,597cc, four-cylinder diesel engine driving front wheels via six-speed manual gearbox
Max speed: 129mph
0-62mph: 10.5 seconds
Combined mpg: 76.3
Insurance group: 15
CO₂ emissions: 94g/km
BiK rating: 16%
Warranty: Three years/90,000 miles

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1. Advertisements are accepted on the conditions that (a) descriptions relating to goods are accurate and in no way contravene the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, and the Fair Trading Act 1973; and (b) the copy complies with the British Code of Advertising Practice. Advertisers using credit or facilities must conform to the Consumer Credit (Advertisement) Regulations 1980.

2. 'Classified' Advertisers offering goods or service of a business, commercial or trade nature will, at the discretion of the Publishers, be deemed 'Trade Advertisers', and as such, must include their names in advertisements. A telephone number is an optional addition to these requirements and not an alternative.

To comply with the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977, Trade Advertisers must make it clear that they are selling goods in the course of business either in content, format, size or style of the advertisement or by including words such as 'trade', 'dealer', 'agent', 'wholesaler', etc. in the advertisement.

3. The Publishers accept no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage however caused arising out of:

(a) Any error, inaccuracy or omission in the printing or publishing of any advertisement;

(b) Any failure to publish an advertisement on the day / date or day / dates specified by the advertiser; or

(c) Any delay in receiving or sending or failing to forward replies to box numbers to the Advertiser.

4. The Publishers will endeavour to publish advertisements on the day / date or day / dates specified by the Advertiser but insertion days / dates cannot be guaranteed.

5. Where shrinkage of advertisement occurs for whatever reasons the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre. This will NOT apply to the full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.

6. The Publishers reserve the right to reject an advertisement or to vary it in any way they deem fit, at any time before publication, whether or not the advertisement has already been accepted for publication.

7. When advertising space is made to minimise errors in advertisements, mistakes do sometimes occur. Advertisers or their agents should therefore check their advertisements and inform us of any errors immediately. Responsibility cannot be accepted for more than one incorrect insertion. Typographical or minor changes, which do not affect the value of the advertisement, do not qualify for republication or allowances.

8. All gross advertising rates (except classified lineage and semi-display) are subject to and include a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance surcharge, payable by the advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory control system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.

9. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.

10. Should the rate for advertisements be altered the price for remaining insertions shall be revised accordingly and publishers shall have the right to cancel the unexpired portion of the order.

11. The placing of an advertisement order will be deemed as acceptance of these conditions.

12. Account facilities are granted at the discretion of the Company.

13. All accounts must be settled within the terms agreed by the Company and the Customer.

(1) Should an advertiser be in breach of the agreed terms, the publisher shall be entitled to levy a 10% surcharge on the value of the whole debt in respect of accounts with terms of less than 30 days, and any discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed.

(2) Monthly accounts that are in breach of the agreed terms will pay an interest rate of 6% above the current bank of England base rate for each month that the account is overdue and discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed. Should Legal action be required the interest will be charged in accordance with the County Court Act 1984.

14. Where an advertiser instructs / appoints an advertising agent to act on their behalf, the advertiser will remain jointly and severally liable for payment in respect for an advertisement(s) should the appointed agent fail to pay. For the avoidance of doubt, the agent acts for the advertiser and not for the publisher with the agent being responsible for notifying the advertiser of this liability.

15. All accounts must be notified, preferentially in writing to the accounts department of the publisher within 7 days of the invoice date.

16. All digital services are maintained in partnership with the publishers' hosting service providers. Every effort is made to ensure the continuity of these services, but some occasional technical downtime beyond the publishers control may occur. The publisher and its associated companies shall be under no liability if the production and distribution of web services is delayed or prevented by any cause beyond the control of the publisher.

17. The Publisher may provide voucher copies for published advertisements in electronic form, subject to certain criteria. Further information is available on request.

18. The copyright of advertisements produced wholly or partially by the Publishers belong to the Publishers. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the Publishers' consent.

Box Numbers

Boxes are open for the receipt of bona fide answers and are not available for distribution of false canvassing matter. Original testimonials, goods, cash, cash stamps or payments of any kind, cheques, money orders and postal address are charged as part of the advertisement. i.e. Box No., name, address. There is no charge for forwarding replies. Box numbers alone are not available for use in 'Trade' advertisements, other than Employment and Business Opportunities.

Holiday & Travel Category

All advertising must contain the name of the advertiser, phone number alone are not permitted.

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The service you have requested may require us to carry out a credit search at a credit reference agency, which will record the fact that a search has been made. We may need to share your information with other lenders and credit reference agencies. However, we will only use the information from these companies to make credit-granting decisions and, if necessary, for fraud prevention or tracing debtors.

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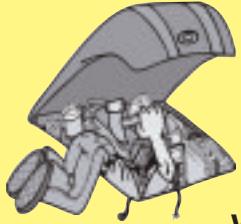
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FURY AS BLUES THROW IT AWAY

Southend United

Swindon Town 4 Southend United 2
Sky Bet League One
By Rowland Lyons at
the County Ground

PHIL Brown's Shrimpers lost their third consecutive game after throwing away an early two-goal lead at the mangerless Robins on Saturday.

Debut boy Tyrone Bennett and Adam Thompson put the Blues ahead within 13 first half minutes. But Nicky Ajose and Jonathan Obika levelled before the break. Obika then added a third before Ajose added insult to injury with a 90th minute breakaway goal.

Seconds after Town's Anton Rodgers had spurned a clear-cut opportunity, loanee Barnett struck gold with a fine 20-yard, fifth minute strike after Raphael Rossi-Branco was dispossessed by Ryan Leonard.

Swindon seemed there for the taking and the visitors pressed home their advantage within eight minutes when Thompson rose highest and nodded home Ben Coker's out swinging free-kick, following a crude Jordan Turnbull foul on David Worrall.

Journeyman Obika did his best to reduce the arrears on 20 minutes, but the recalled Gary Deegan did well to get in a block that Daniel Bentley still had to watch spin over his bar.

The former Tottenham and Yeovil striker then edged closer on the half-hour mark from Brandon Ormonde-Ottewill's peach of a cross, but the underworked Bentley made a superb point-blank block.

Amid continuous boozing from the home crowd, Noel Hunt was unlucky not to put the Shrimpers further ahead only a minute later following more

defensive indecision, with Worrall also unable to cash in.

But, the Robins – surely – couldn't get any worse and a succession of flag kicks led to Turnball testing Bentley from eight yards – who saved with his legs.

Southend hit back immediately and should have made it three-nil with skipper Michael Timlin disappointed to see his angled effort beaten away by Lawrence Vigouroux.

That miss proved costly as Swindon were back in the contest three minutes from the interval when Ajose pounced from a yard out after Bentley could only parry Obika's close-range shot on the turn.

Two-nil has always been a dangerous lead and so it proved in stoppage time when Obika levelled from the narrowest of angles after Southend had failed to clear Yaser Kasim's flick from Bradley Barry's quick throw-in.

The Shrimpers at least appeared to have arrested their slump after the restart with Ryan Leonard testing Vigouroux, before Hunt saw his back header flash inches wide from Coker's 55th minute set-piece.

But in worsening conditions Luke O'Neill had to be brave in clearing Ottewill's goalbound effort in a move that saw Obika clatter Bentley.

Bentley soon recovered and despite fumbling a lofted Kasim cross, the gloveman did well to keep out Fabien Robert's long-range punt.

Swindon kept ratcheting up the pressure and Thompson took one for the team, literally, in the face, blocking Ajose's 18-yard half-volley on 69 minutes.

Thompson and Bentley – a minute later – then combined to halt the over-



SKIPPER: Michael Timlin

lapping Ottewill's run after Obika had led a breakaway from a poor O'Neill cross.

Obika then hit the winner with 11 minutes left after the Southend defence stood off and allowed the striker to net with a left-footed effort, having run half the length of the pitch, as the Shrimpers were fooled by Robert's decoy run.

Southend then pressed in a bid to salvage a point and the tiring Barnett went close, before a Worrall corner was cleared by Robert to free Ajose, who, despite sub Will Atkinson's attempted professional foul, sprinted away, drew Bentley and slotted home on 90 minutes.

Brown finally appeared after a near two-hour post-match dressing room lock-in and said: "I'm certainly disappointed in the way we engaged in the game. We squeezed the living daylights out of Swindon for the first half-hour and then took our foot off the gas, having gone two-nil up."

Brown revealed: "Those are the questions I'm asking them – why we did that. I got some answers and hopefully we will realise those answers on the

training ground and at Peterborough next week (Saturday, kick-off 3pm).

"The players know what I'm about and have known that for three years. I've got decent lads in there. They're telling me that they're hurting. They can't be hurting as much as I am.

"Shipping 11 goals in three games is something I don't take too kindly to. But we weren't at the races in the second half. Swindon were by far the better team. It was poor defending from us.

"I don't like three defeats on the bounce. It's now about how we react.

"The bottom line is, we never looked comfortable in the second half and never looked like we'd get a point out of the game.

"It's obviously disappointing for the travelling fans. When the fourth goal goes in, the stadium empties – and that's my fault. That's my responsibility. All I can say to them is I shall be trying to put that right on the training ground with players I've got."

Man-of-the-match Obika added: "Southend cut us open early on and we just had to try and start limiting those mistakes and just hoped we could get to half-time without conceding again. If you're two-nil up, you want to close out the game. But it was good to get the brace."

Swindon Town: Lawrence Vigouroux, Bradley Barry, Jordan Turnbull, Raphael Rossi-Branco, Brandon Ormonde-Ottewill, Drissa Traore (Jeremy Balmby '78), Anton Rodgers, Fabien Robert, Nicky Ajose, Jonathan Obika (Jermaine Hyton '90).

Southend United: Daniel Bentley, Luke O'Neill, Adam Thompson, Luke Prosser, Ben Coker, Ryan Leonard, Michael Timlin (captain) (Will Atkinson '87), Gary Deegan (Kevan Hurst '66), David Worrall, Tyrone Barnett, Noel Hunt (David Mooney '69).

Referee: G Salisbury

Assistants: M Pottage and D Bushell

Attendance: 7,162.

Non-league round-up

Thurrock fight back

By Brian Jeeves

MICHAEL Toner hit a brace as Thurrock recovered from a goal behind to see off Heybridge Swifts in their Ryman League Division One North clash at Ship Lane.

Swifts had grabbed an early lead through George Cole, before Toner struck twice against his old club before the break. The hosts went on to complete a 3-1 victory thanks to a late Ross Gleed goal.

There was drama at Burroughs Park where Great Wakering Rovers goalkeeper Adam Seal was sent off in the final minute for a professional foul. But the villagers were not to be denied a hard-earned point from an eventful goalless draw with league leaders Cray Wanderers.

Daniel Glazier (penalty) and Emiel Aiken struck after the break as Tilbury picked up an impressive 2-1 victory at Phoenix Sports, and there was a win for Brightlingsea Regent by three goals to one over Romford.

Elsewhere Witham Town slipped to a 2-1 home defeat against Hartlow Town.

In the Ryman Premier League new signing Merrick James-Lewis was on target for Canvey Island in their 1-1 draw with Tonbridge Angels at Park Lane, while Bradley Fortnam-Tomlinson and skipper Kenny Beaney grabbed Grays Athletic's goals in an entertaining 2-2 draw at Merstham.

The matches involving Billericay Town, Brentwood Town and East Thurrock United all fell foul of the weather.

Chelmsford City held a 2-1 lead at the break in their National League South clash with Weston-Super-Mare at the Melbourne Stadium, Billy Hunt and Bagasan Graham the men on target.

But Jacob Cane and Dayle Grubb (2) ensured the visitors left with the points, winning by the odd goal in five.

Selected action from the Essex Senior League saw Sawbridgeworth Town win by the odd goal in three against Clapton at the Old Spotted Dog, while there was a 3-1 win for Southend Manor over Stansted at Southchurch Park arena. And Enfield 1893's revival continued as they edged out Ilford 3-2.

It was the end of the road for FC Romania and Hullbridge Sports in the FA Vase. Romania went down 2-1 at home against Camberley Town, while Hullbridge lost by four goals to two at Berkhamsted.

The highlights from the ProKit UK Essex Olympian League were in the Premier Division, where Frenford Senior clinched a single goal victory at White Ensign, and there was a 5-1 win for Kelvedon Hatch at Newham FC. In Division One Old Chelmsfordians won 3-2 at Leigh Ramblers.

Napier announces retirement to launch cricket academy

Cricket

ESSEX cricket stalwart Graham Napier has announced his plans to retire from the professional game at the end of the 2016 season.

Napier will take up a role at the Royal Hospital School (RHS), Suffolk, as director of the Graham Napier Cricket Academy as his first class career draws to a close.

He made his debut for Essex in 1997 and has gone on to play 157 first class matches, 213 list A games and 97 T20 clashes for the county.

All-rounder Napier boasts impressive statistics. He has a batting average of 29.86 in all first class cricket, with a bowling equivalent of 31.40; a batting strike-rate in T20 of 148.27, with 142 wickets at 24.38 in the shortest format; and in list A cricket, Napier took 287 wickets over his career, at

26.04. Many Essex supporters will remember Napier equalising his own world record 16 sixes in a mammoth 196 against Surrey in 2011, his four wickets in four balls against the same opponents in 2013; his efforts in that year saw him crowned Player of the Year.

The moment that will spring to mind for most supporters, however, was his innings against Sussex Sharks on June 24, 2008. When Napier came to the crease Essex were 13-1. When he returned to the pavilion at the end of the 20 overs, they had reached 242-3, as Napier smashed 152 off 58 balls.

He set his original sixes record in the course of that innings.

Cricket Committee chairman Ronnie Irani said: "Graham has had a fabulous career in all three formats of the game for us, and has been the very definition of loyalty over the past 19



RETIRING: Graham Napier

years which is what Essex County Cricket Club and its supporters are all

about. Napier said: "The opportunity at the RHS is one that I could not turn down. I feel the time is right to move on, and give back to the game that has given me so much."

"I have loved every second of playing for Essex, and will be doing my best to make sure I retire with a bang at the end of the season."

The Graham Napier Cricket Academy at the RHS launches in September with the aim of establishing a high-profile centre of cricketing excellence which helps young cricketers to develop and fulfil their potential, as well as promoting participation at all levels and ages, among both boys and girls at the school and in the wider community.

The RHS is a co-educational boarding and day school for 700 11 to 18-year-olds at Holbrook, near Ipswich, and overlooks the Shotley Peninsula.

Send your sports reports to: sport@yellowad.co.uk Copy must reach us by no later than midday on Monday.

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